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# ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

## PAPER II

# HISTORY

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## PAPER – II

# HISTORY

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# CONTENTS


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chap 01 | Historiography and History writing | 9-73 |
| Chap 02 | Ancient Indian History | 74-142 |
| Chap 03 | Maurya and Later Mouryan Period | 143-206 |
| Chap 04 | Concepts and ideas of Ancient India | 207-270 |
| Chap 05 | Medieval Indian History | 271-334 |
| Chap 06 | Medieval Indian Social, Economic, Religious and Cultural Life | 335-405 |
| Chap 07 | History of Modern India | 406-479 |
| Chap 08 | History of Modern India | 480-547 |
| Chap 09 | World History | 548-611 |
| Chap 10 | History of Madhya Pradesh and Freedom Movement | 612-677 |


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**Assistant Professor Exam-2025**
**Second Paper**
**Syllabus- History**

## Unit- I : Historiography and History writing

- What is History: Etymology, meaning, definition of history
- Nature of History and Form - History is a science, history is an art, history is a Philosophy.
- Scope of history - political history, economic history, social history, religious history, cultural history, history of constitutions, history of ideas, intellectual history, regional history, national history, world history.
- Objectivity in history, Problem of objectivity in history, need of objectivity in history, historical objectivity.
- Bias in history - Meaning of bias, major causes of bias in history - social environment, effect of religion, political loyalty, gratitude to the patron ruler, etc.
- Co relation of history with other subjects - History and Geography, History and Archaeology, History and Politics, History and Sociology, History and Economics, History and Literature.
- Research in History- Meaning of research, primary and secondary sources of research, collection and selection of data, evidence and its transmission.
- Approaches to History - Religious, orientalist, imperialistic, nationalist, Marxist, Subaltern, Post modernist.
- Grand theory of history - Cyclical concept of history, Doctrine of historical materialism.
- Traditions of history writing - Vedic and Puranic Tradition of history writing in Ancient India; Suta tradition, Charit tradition, Buddhist and Jain tradition.
  The author of ancient Indian history - Shukra, Banabhatta, Kalhana. The author of medieval Indian history - Minhaj - us - Siraj, Ziauddin Barni, Abul Fazl. Modern history writers of India - Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar, Yadunath Sarkar, Anand K. Swami Kashi Prasad Jaiswal, Ramesh Chandra Majumder, Dharmanand Kosambi. Prof. Satishchandra Mittal.

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## Unit- II : Ancient Indian History

- Concepts and ideas - Bharatvarsha, Vedas, Riti, Sabha : Samiti, Varnashrama, Purusharthas, Rina, Samsakaras, Yajna/Punch Mahayajna, Doctrine of Karma, Bodhisatva and Triratnakas.
- Literary Sources of History : Religious Literature, Laukik Literature.
- Archaeological Sources of History - Inscriptions, Coins, Monuments etc.
- Accounts of Foreign Travellers - Greco-Roman, Chinese and Arab writer's.
- Prehistory and Protohistory - Man and Environment, Geographical factors. Hunting and gathering (Paleolithic and Mesolithic), Beginning of Agriculture (neolithic and Chalcolithic).
- Indus/Sarasvati Valley Civilization - Origin, expansion, characteristics, decline, survival and importance, Iron age and Second urbanisation.
- Vedic Period - Vedic culture, Vedic age (Pre and Later), literary and archaeological evidences, evolution of social, economic and political institutions, religious and philosophical thoughts, rituals and practices.
- Periods of Mahajanpadas / Formation of sixteen Mahajanpadas, Republic and Monarchies, rise of urban centers, trade routes, economic growth, coinage, rise of

Magadha empire (with special reference to Haryanka dynasty, Shishunaga and Nanda dynasty). Republic and democracy in ancient India.

- Religious revolution of Sixth Century B.C. - Major changes, doctrines and philosophical ideas of Jainism and Buddhism, the age of the sutras.
- Foreign invasions - Hakhamani (Irani/Persian), invasion(Kurush or Cyrus-II, Darius -I, Xerxes, Derius third), invasion of Alexander on India and their impact.

**Unit- III : Mauryan and Later Mauryan Period**

- Concepts and Ideas - Dandaniti, Kautilya's Artha-shastra, Saptanga, Dharma vijaya, Stupa, Chaitya, Vihar, Guild, Karu, Vishti
- Chandragupta Maurya - Origin, Early life, conquests and achievements, Chandragupta Maurya's last life and expansion of empire.
- Administrative System-central administration, Provincial administration, City and Village administration of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Samrat Ashok "Priyadarshi" - early life, Battle of Kalinga and its consequences, Ashoka's dhamma, measures for propagation of Dhamma, administrator reformer of Ashoka.
- Ashoka's inscription - Rock- Edicts, Minor-Rock- Edicts, Pillar-Edicts, Minor Pillar Edicts and Cave Inscriptions.
- Mauryan Age- Culture- Social, Economic and religious life, Art and Architecture, Brahmi and Kharosthi script.
- Disintegration of Mauryan Empire - reasons of the fall of Mauryan empire, Shunga Dynasty- achievements of Pushyamitra Shunga, Kanva dynasty, History of Satavahanas and Satavahana era culture (Social, religious, economic life and Art). Ando-Greek (Demetrious, Uktritidies, Menander etc.) Shak ( Shak of Taxila), Shak Khatrapas of Mathura, Shak Khatrapas of Maharastra, Shak Khatrapas of Sourashtra and Malwa, Kushan dynasty- Kanishas empire expansions and administration, Kushan era Dharm, literature and art.
- Eastern India and South India - Chedi dynasty of Kalinga, Kharvela and his achievements. Chola kingdom- Chera kingdom, Pandy kingdom, Sangama literature, Sangam Age culture (Art, Social, Economic condition, religion and religious belief) Greater India.
- Ancient Indian Knowledge System- Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Sculpture Metalergy, Medical Science, Technology, Mathematics, Astronomy.

**Unit- IV : Concepts and ideas of Ancient India**

- Sridhana Memorial stones, Agraharas, Nagar- Dravida- Vesara.
- Gupta dynasty- Chandragupta- I, Samudragupta, Ramgupta, Chandragupta-II, Kumargupta, Skandagupta (Conquests and achievements) Gupta's Governance.
- Guptas age culture and contact with Neighbouring countries - Governance, social life, economic life, religious ,life, literature, Science, art and architecture. Relation of India with South East Asia, contact with Central Asia, China and Shrilanka in Gupta period.
- Vardhana dynasty of Thaeshwar and Harsha. culture - Harsha's early life, Wars and Victories, Expansion of Empire, Governance, Social religious life, education and literature, Nalanda University.
- North and Eastern Border State- Karkote dynasty, Utpala dynasty and Lohar dynasty of Kashmir. Pala dynasty of Bengal and Vanga. Varmana dynasty of Kamrupa- History and culture Vikramashila University.

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- Chalukya dynasty- Chalukya ruler of Vatapi, Kalyani, and Vengi (Andhra)- administration Political history - Chalukya culture (Administration, Literature, dharma, Art and Architecture.)

**Unit- V : Medieval Indian History**

- Concept and Ideas- Chauth, Hundi (Bils of Exchange), Polygar, Jagir, Amaram, Iqta, Jaziy, Manasab, Deshmukh, Nadu, Jonah, Saka, Sulah-i-kul.
- Arab's invasion and Indian Resistance - Invasion of Ubedulla, Bdel and Md. Bin Quasim on the king Dahir and the sacrifice of Dahir. Arabs defeat by Lalitaditya, the Bappa Rawal, king of Gurjar Pratihara, Chalukya king, Balad and the Bappa Rawal, king of Gurjar Pratihara.
- Invasion of Turks and Mangols and Indian Resistance.- Various Seventeen invasions of Mahamood Gaznavi and Indian resistance- Raja Suheldev and others. Invasion of Md. Ghori, Marigols and Timur.
- Sultanate rulers of India and Indian resistance - Slave dynasty, the khilajis, the Tughlaque, Saiyad and the lodhis and the resistance by regional Rajpoot rulers.
- Invasion of Mughals and Afghans on India and Indian resistance - Babar, Panipat, Khanwa, Chanderi and Ghaghara's war, invasion of Nadirshah, Ahmadshah Abdali.
- Mughal rulers and Indian resistance - Humayun, Shershah Suri, Akbar(Siege of Chittorgarh), Jahangir, Shahajahan, Aurangzeb; Gond Rajpoots, Jat, Sikh and Satnami's resistance.
- Rise of Regional Kingdoms - Vijaya nagara and the Bahmani Kingdom - rise, extension and Disintegration.
- Rise of Maratha Empire- Causes of rise of Marathas, Victories of Shivaji and foundation of Hindvi Swaraj, Establishment and Expansion of Maratha Empire during Peshawas.
- Medieval Administrative system- Administration of Turks, Mughals, Shershah Suri, Vijayanagara and Marathas.

**Unit- VI Medieval Indian Social , Economic, Religious and Cultural Life**

- Social Life- Hindu society and condition of women, Muslim society and condition of women, Food habits, Cloths, Ornaments, Entertainment, etc.
- Economic Life- Agriculture production, Land revenue system, means of irrigation, condition of peasants. Tax system, Mint Business and industry. Urbanization, Trade and commerce, internal trade, foreign trade, handicrafts, means of transport.
- Culture of Vijayanagar- Social, religious, economic status, development of literature and Art.
- Bhakti Sect and Philosophy- Shaivism and its branches, Vaishnavism and its branches Shakta religion - origin and development, Prominent saint in Medieval period - Shankaracharya, Ramananda, Kabir, Nanak, Tukaram, Eknath, Sant Gyaneshwar, Chaitenya Mahaprabhu, Tulsidas, Meerabai, Vallabhacharya, Ramanujacharya, Sant Ravidas, Sant Singji, etc.
- Sikh Sect and Sufism- Life and teaching of Sikh Gurus, Mughal- Sikh relations, Adi Granth (Guru Granth Sahib), the Khalsa, Sufism and Sufi Sants.
- Religious Policy of Mughals:- Baber, Humayun, Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb's religious policy.
- Cultural Life - Educational system and their motivation, Literature- Persian(Farsi), Sanskrit and Regional Languages, fine arts, Major schools of paintings, Music, Development of architecture of North and South India.

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**Unit- VII History of Modern India**

- Concept and Idea- Orientalism, Colonialism, Subsidiary Alliance, Communalism, Khilafat, Nationalism, Paramountcy, dyarchy forward policy, doctrine of lapse.
- Sources and Historiography- Archivel materials, biographies and memories, newspapers, oral evidence, creative literature and painting concept of modern Indian Historiography - Imperialist, Nationalist, Marxist, subaltern and orientalist
- Rise of British Power in India in the 17th and 18th centuries-european traders - Portuguese, dutch, French and the British, The establishment and expansion of British Rule in India, British relations with the Indian Powers- Bengal, Oudh, Hyderabad, Mysore, Marathas and Sikhs.
- Administration of the 'company and Crown- Evolution of central and provincial structure under the last India company (1773 - 1853) Paramountcy, Civil Service, Judiciary, Police and the Army under the company and Crown, Local Self- Government, Constitutional changes (1909-1935).
- Economic History - commercialization of agriculture, land settlement, rural indebtedness, Destruction of cottage industries, trades and handicrafts, changing socio- economic condition of artisans, major modern industries nature of factory labour and trade- union movement, deindustrialization, monetary policy, famines and epidemics and the government policy, Indian economic historians, the Drain theory and Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Dutt.
- British Education Policy- Its impact, the contribution of Rajaram Mohan Roy, Dayanand Sarasvati, Swami, Vivekanand, Saiyadas Ahamad Khan, the contribution of Annie besent, Theosophical Society, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, Jyotiba Rule, Keshav dhondo karve, Savitri Bai fule. Social reform movement, status of women, Women's organisatin, British Law relates to women.
- Development of Indian Press- status before 1857, Licensing Act of 1857 Vernacular press Act and different news paper Act, popular news Papers.

**Unit- VIII History of Modern India**

- Causes of the rise of Indian Nationalism, social and economic base of Nationalism.
- Revolution of 1857 - Causes, nature, results, causes of failure and impact, chief heroes of 1857 - Mangal Pandey, Tatya tope, Bakher khan, Nana saheb, Mauvi Ahmad Ullah, Lacmibai, Jhalkaribai, etc.
- Resistance to Colonial rule - Major rebellion - Kuka rebellion, Vasudev Balavant Fadake rebellion, Tribal rebellion - Khasi, Naga, Ahom; Kol, Munda, Bhil rebellion (Maharashtra and Rajasthan).
- Major Peasant Movement - Santhal rebellion, Neel rebellion, Pabana movement, Champaran Satyagraha, Kheda Satyagraha, Bardoli Satyagraha.
- Foundation of Indian National Congress - Causes, Moderate leadership, Extremist Nationalism, Role of Lal-Bal-Pal, Aurobindo Ghosh. Split of Congress - moderates - extremists Surat session, split of Congress.
- Idealogy and activities of revolutionaries in India and abroad Country - Early revolutionary organisations, major revolutionary activities of India - The role and contribution of major revolutionaries.
- Gandhi Era and major mass movements - Gandhi's debut in the Indian freedom struggle and all the movements under his leadership. Subhashchandra Bosi and INA.

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**Unit- IX World History**

- Concepts - Code of law, Roman Empire, Slavery, Aristocracy, Jamidari, Black Death, Feudalism, Renaissance, Parliamentary Democracy, Socialism, Nazism, Fascism, Eastern problem, Supremacy of Church, Holy Roman Economic revolution of the Modern West - Mercantilism, colonialism, Industrial revolution.
- Major revolution (18th Century) of the world - revolution of America - 1776 AD, French Revolution- 1789 AD.
- Major revolution of the Twentieth Century - Chinese revolution of 1911, Russian Revolution 1917, Chinese revolution of 1949.
- The era of Napoleon Bonaparte - rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte, The Congress of Vienna (1815A.D.).
- Eastern Problem - Crimean War (1854-1856), Berlin Congress, Young Turk movement, Balkan war.
- Rise of Nationalism in Germany and Italy - Unification of Germany, Unification of Italy.
- First World War - Causes, consequences and effects of world war first, Treaty of Versailles.
- The rise of dictatorial powers - Fascism and Mussolini's policy, Nazism and Hitler's policy.
- Second World War - Causes, results and effects, establishment of the United Nation Organisation.

**Unit- X History of Madhya Pradesh and Freedom Movement**

- Pre historic Period - Palaeolithic period, Mesolithic period, Neolithic period, Rock-Paintings of Madhya Pradesh. Major Rock shelters of Madhya Pradesh - Rock Paintings of Madhya Pradesh.
- Major inscriptions of Madhya Pradesh - Inscriptions of Ashoka - Rupnath, Gujarra, Panguradiya, Sanchi Inscription of Kushan king Vashishka, Besnagar Garudadhwaj Pillar inscription, Udayagiri Cave inscription of Chandragupta -II, Sanchi Stone inscription of the time of Chandragupta - II, Inscription of Bandhu Verma at the time of Chandragupta -II
- Dynasty of Madhya Pradesh - Gardabhilla dynasty, Naga Dynasty, Abheer dynasty, Oulikar dynasty, Parirajbaka dynasty, Uchchhakalpa dynasty, Gurjara- Pratihara, Kalchuri, Chandela, Parmar, Tomar, Faruki and Kachchhapaghata dynastys.
- Important Princely States of Madhya Pradesh - Gondwana, Bundelkhand, Bhadelkhand, Holkar, Sindhiya, Bhopal.
- Freedom Struggle and Freedom Movement in Madhya Pradesh - Bundela rebellion, Freedom struggle of 1857 in Madhya Pradesh, Swadeshi movement, non-cooperation movement, civil disobedience movement, hodame Satyagraha and Jungle Satyagraha, etc. major events and organization of Madhya Pradesh.
- Tribal heroes of Madhya Pradesh - struggle and contribution in history - Shankershah, Raghunath shah, Bheemaji Nayak, Khajya Nayak, Tantya Bheel, Ganjan Singh Korku, Badal Bhoi, Pema Falya etc.
- The Famous historical site of M.P. - Stupa, temple, palace, fort, caves, (Bhimbetka, Adamgarh etc.) holy city, etc.

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# CHAPTER 01
# Historiography and History writing

**1.** Which of the following best describes the etymological origin of the word 'history'?
(A) It is derived from the Latin word 'historia', meaning 'to narrate'.
(B) It is derived from the Greek word 'historia', meaning 'inquiry'.
(C) It is derived from the Sanskrit word 'itihasa', meaning 'thus it was'.
(D) It is derived from the German word 'Geschichte', meaning 'events'.

**2.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: The view that history is a science emphasizes its reliance on evidence, critical methodology, and the pursuit of objectivity.
Statement II: The view that history is an art highlights the role of the historian's imagination, narrative skill, and subjective interpretation in constructing the past.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**3.** Which of the following is NOT considered a primary sub-field within the scope of history?
(A) History of ideas
(B) Intellectual history
(C) Futurology
(D) History of constitution

**4.** The problem of objectivity in history primarily arises from which of the following factors?
(A) The relative scarcity of primary source materials for ancient periods.
(B) The lack of a single, universally accepted historical research method.
(C) The technical difficulty of translating ancient scripts with precision.
(D) The inherent subjectivity of the historian and their personal context.

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**5.** Which of the following is identified as a major cause of bias in history writing?
(A) The use of archaeological evidence
(B) The practice of peer review
(C) A historian's gratitude to a patron ruler
(D) The correlation of history with geography

**6.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Field)
P. History and Archaeology
Q. History and Sociology
R. History and Economics
S. History and Politics
List II: (Correlation)
1. Studies power structures, governance, and statecraft over time.
2. Analyzes past production, distribution, and consumption patterns.
3. Examines social structures, institutions, and changes in past societies.
4. Uses material remains to reconstruct and verify the past.
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**7.** What is the fundamental difference between primary and secondary sources in historical research?
(A) Primary sources are written, while secondary sources are non-written.
(B) Primary sources are always unbiased, while secondary sources are biased.
(C) Primary sources are found in archives, while secondary sources are found in libraries.
(D) Primary sources are contemporary to the event, while secondary sources are

interpretations.

**8.** The Nationalist approach to history writing in India emerged primarily as a response to which other approach?
(A) Imperialistic approach
(B) Marxist approach
(C) Subaltern approach
(D) Post-modernist approach

**9.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Cyclical concept of history suggests that history repeats itself in patterns or cycles.
Reason (R): This view posits a linear progression of history towards a predetermined end.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**10.** According to the Puranic tradition of history writing, which of the following is a key component of its narrative structure?
(A) A genealogical list of kings and dynasties
(B) An analysis of economic policies
(C) A focus on the lives of common people
(D) A critique of religious practices

**11.** The 'Charit' tradition of history writing in ancient India can be best described as:
(A) A collection of religious hymns and rituals.
(B) A legal code designed for social conduct.
(C) A chronological account of global history.
(D) Laudatory biographies of kings and patrons.

**12.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: Collection of data involves gathering all available primary and secondary sources.
Statement II: Selection of data involves a critical process of choosing the most relevant and reliable information for the specific research question.
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

**13.** Who among the following ancient Indian authors is known for writing a treatise that includes principles of statecraft and history?
(A) Banabhatta
(B) Kalhana
(C) Shukra
(D) Minhaj-us-siraj

**14.** The Doctrine of Historical Materialism, a grand theory of history, is most closely associated with which approach?
(A) Nationalist
(B) Imperialistic
(C) Post-modernist
(D) Marxist

**15.** Consider the following statements:
1. Objectivity in history implies writing history without any interpretation.
2. The need for objectivity arises from the desire to make history a credible and reliable discipline.
3. Historical objectivity is an absolute goal that is easily attainable by any trained historian.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 2 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**16.** Ziauddin Barani, a medieval Indian historian, is renowned for which of the following works?
(A) Akbarnama
(B) Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi
(C) Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
(D) Rajatarangini

**17.** Which of the following is an example of a primary source for a historian studying the Mughal period?
(A) A 21st-century biography of Emperor Akbar.
(B) Abul Fazl's Akbarnama.
(C) A textbook on medieval Indian history written by R.C. Majumdar.
(D) A research paper on Mughal economic

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policies published in a modern journal.

**18.** The study of the past from the perspective of marginalized and non-elite groups is the central focus of which historical approach?
(A) Subaltern
(B) Orientalist
(C) Nationalist
(D) Imperialistic

**19.** Which of the following statements about the correlation between history and literature is incorrect?
(A) Literature often serves as a source for understanding the social and cultural values of a period.
(B) Historical events frequently provide the backdrop or subject matter for literary works.
(C) Literary sources are always factually accurate and can be used without critical evaluation.
(D) History and literature both use narrative to construct their accounts.

**20.** Arrange the following modern Indian historians in chronological order of their approximate period of activity (early to late).
1. Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar
2. Kashi Prasad Jaiswal
3. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar
4. Satishchandra Mittal
(A) 2, 1, 4, 3
(B) 1, 3, 2, 4
(C) 4, 3, 1, 2
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

**21.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Imperialistic historiography often portrayed India as a land of despotic rulers and a stagnant society.
Reason (R): This portrayal served to justify British colonial rule as a 'civilizing mission' that brought progress and enlightenment to India.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**22.** The term 'Suta tradition' in the context of ancient Indian history writing refers to:
(A) The tradition of writing royal biographies.
(B) The tradition of bardic storytellers who preserved genealogies and historical anecdotes.
(C) The tradition of Buddhist monks recording the life of the Buddha.
(D) The tradition of Jain scholars compiling religious texts.

**23.** Which of the following historians is a modern history writer of India?
(A) Herodotus
(B) Leopold von Ranke
(C) Arnold J. Toynbee
(D) Yadunath Sarkar

**24.** The debate over whether history is a science or an art revolves around:
(A) The role of methodology and objectivity versus narrative and interpretation.
(B) The use of primary versus secondary sources.
(C) The study of political history versus social history.
(D) The focus on national history versus world history.

**25.** The Post-modernist approach to history is characterized by:
(A) A belief in the existence of a single, objective historical truth.
(B) A focus on grand narratives of universal progress and development.
(C) Skepticism towards grand theories and a focus on deconstruction.
(D) The exclusive use of economic data to explain all historical change.

**26.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Historian)
P. Kalhana
Q. Abul Fazl
R. Banabhatta
S. Ziauddin Barani
List II: (Work)
1. Harsacharita

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2. Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi
3. Rajatarangini
4. Akbarnama

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**27.** The study of coinage, a crucial auxiliary discipline for history, provides information about all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The economic conditions of the period.
(B) The extent of a kingdom's territory.
(C) The religious beliefs of the rulers.
(D) The complete social structure of the society.

**28.** Which of the following best defines "evidence and its transmission" in historical research?
(A) The process of final publication of a history book or research journal.
(B) The way historical information is altered through sources and accounts.
(C) The physical transportation of historical artifacts and remains to museums.
(D) The systematic selection of relevant data from primary research sources.

**29.** The concept of historical objectivity means:
(A) A historian should have no personal opinions or beliefs about the subject.
(B) A historian must only use sources that agree with their specific thesis.
(C) A historian strives for a fair, evidence-supported, balanced account.
(D) A historian must write in a complex and scientific academic language.

**30.** A historian writing about the "history of ideas" would most likely focus on:
(A) The dates of major battles and the succession of kings.
(B) The changes in agricultural production and trade routes.
(C) The architectural styles of public buildings and structures.
(D) The evolution of abstract concepts like liberty or justice.

**31.** Consider the following statements:
1. The Buddhist tradition of history writing focused exclusively on the political achievements of kings.
2. The Jain tradition contributed historical information through its hagiographies and chronicles.
3. Both Buddhist and Jain traditions often integrated religious doctrines into their historical narratives.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**32.** The "Orientalist" approach to Indian history is best characterized by:
(A) A hostile critique of Indian culture and indigenous traditions.
(B) Scholarly study of India's classical languages and ancient texts.
(C) An attempt to justify colonial rule through historical narratives.
(D) A focus on the history of the Indian rural and working classes.

**33.** Which of the following pairs of historian and their specialization/contribution is incorrectly matched?
(A) Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar - Pioneer of scientific historical research in India.
(B) Dharmanand Kosambi - Exclusively focused on modern Indian political history.
(C) Yadunath Sarkar - Foremost historian of the Mughal Empire, particularly Aurangzeb.
(D) Kashi Prasad Jaiswal - Argued for the existence of Hindu republics in ancient India.

**34.** What is the central argument of the "Doctrine of historical materialism"?
(A) History progresses through class struggles based on modes of production.
(B) History is driven primarily by the actions of great individuals.
(C) History moves in repetitive cycles of societal growth and decay.
(D) History is shaped by the conflict between competing religious ideas.

**35.** The "effect of religion" as a cause of bias in history writing would be most evident in:

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(A) An economic analysis of trade patterns.
(B) A geographical survey of a historical region.
(C) A chronicle favoring the faith of the writer.
(D) A study of constitutional amendments.

**36.** Which branch of history would specifically study the evolution of legal frameworks and governance structures?
(A) Economic history
(B) Social history
(C) Cultural history
(D) History of constitution

**37.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: Banabhatta's 'Harshacharita' is a classic example of the 'Charit' tradition.
Statement II: 'Harshacharita' is a purely objective and critical account of Harsha's reign, free from any praise for the patron.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**38.** A historian who analyzes the past through the lens of power dynamics, ideology, and the justification for colonial domination is likely adopting which approach?
(A) Nationalist
(B) Imperialistic
(C) Religious
(D) Orientalist

**39.** The correlation between history and sociology is beneficial because:
(A) Sociology offers absolute laws to predict historical events.
(B) History provides sociology with unbiased factual data.
(C) History and sociology are identical disciplines.
(D) Sociology provides a framework for analyzing social structures.

**40.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The selection of data is a crucial step in historical research that requires the historian's judgment.
Reason (R): It is impossible and often undesirable to include every single piece of information from the sources in a historical narrative.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**41.** Minhaj-us-siraj, the author of Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, primarily chronicled the history of which dynasty?
(A) Mughal Dynasty
(B) Khalji Dynasty
(C) Early Delhi Sultanate (Ghurids and Mamluks)
(D) Tughlaq Dynasty

**42.** What distinguishes "intellectual history" from the "history of ideas"?
(A) Intellectual history focuses on thinkers in context, ideas traces concepts.
(B) History of ideas is broader than intellectual history.
(C) Intellectual history deals only with science, while history of ideas deals with philosophy.
(D) There is no difference between the two fields.

**43.** Which of the following represents a key problem of objectivity in history?
(A) The problem of using modern technology for archival research.
(B) The problem of making history interesting to a general audience.
(C) The problem of translating historical works into multiple languages.
(D) The problem of selecting specific facts from a vast sea of data.

**44.** Consider the following scenario for a historical study: "A historian is writing a book on the 1857 Revolt. The historian primarily uses official British reports, letters of soldiers, and government documents." This historian's work is most likely to reflect a bias influenced by:
(A) Religious fervor

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(B) The perspective of the colonial administration
(C) Nationalist sentiment
(D) A Marxist framework

**45.** Chronologically arrange the following historical traditions in India from earliest to latest.
1. Charit Tradition
2. Puranic Tradition
3. Modern scientific historiography
4. Sultanate-era Persian historiography
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

**46.** "History is a science, no less, no more." This famous dictum emphasizes which aspect of history?
(A) The literary quality of historical writing.
(B) The philosophical interpretation of past events.
(C) The cyclical nature of historical processes.
(D) The rigorous, evidence-based methodology of historical inquiry.

**47.** The influence of 'social environment' on a historian can lead to bias. This means:
(A) Contemporary social values may unconsciously shape the historian's view.
(B) A historian will only write about their own social class.
(C) A historian's work is influenced by the weather conditions of their environment.
(D) A historian must live in social isolation to be objective.

**48.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Approach to History)
P. Nationalist
Q. Marxist
R. Subaltern
S. Imperialist
List II: (Core Focus)
1. History from the perspective of the common masses and oppressed.
2. Justification of colonial rule.
3. Glorification of the nation's past and resistance to colonial narratives.
4. Class struggle and mode of production.
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**49.** Which of the following is the best example of a secondary source?
(A) The diary of a soldier who fought in the Battle of Panipat.
(B) A book titled "The Economic Policies of the Delhi Sultanate" written by a modern historian.
(C) An inscription of Emperor Ashoka.
(D) A coin issued by Samudragupta.

**50.** The work of Dharmanand Kosambi is significant in Indian historiography for his application of which approach?
(A) Marxist
(B) Imperialist
(C) Nationalist
(D) Post-modernist

**51.** Consider the following statements:
1. World history attempts to study the past from a global perspective, emphasizing connections and comparisons between different societies.
2. National history focuses exclusively on the political leaders of a single nation, ignoring social and economic aspects.
3. Regional history examines the past of a specific geographical area within a nation.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**52.** The view that history is a philosophy suggests that:
(A) History is merely a collection of facts and dates.
(B) History involves speculating about the meaning and patterns of the past.
(C) History should only be written by trained philosophers.
(D) Historical writing must follow the rules of formal logic.

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**53.** A historian who prioritizes the study of past climates, terrains, and river systems to understand a civilization's development is emphasizing the correlation between:
(A) History and Politics
(B) History and Economics
(C) History and Geography
(D) History and Literature

**54.** The term 'political loyalty' as a cause of bias implies that a historian might:
(A) Refuse to study political history altogether.
(B) Only use sources from government archives.
(C) Focus entirely on the biographies of politicians.
(D) Distort the past to align with the ideology of their preferred political party or system.

**55.** K. P. Jaiswal's work on ancient Indian polity is a prime example of which school of historiography?
(A) Marxist
(B) Imperialist
(C) Nationalist
(D) Subaltern

**56.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Archaeology is a vital supplementary discipline for history, especially for periods with scarce written records.
Reason (R): Material remains like pottery, tools, and ruins provide direct, unmediated, and completely objective facts about the past.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**57.** The "Religious" approach to history, in its traditional sense, often views history as:
(A) A product of economic forces.
(B) A manifestation of a divine plan or will.
(C) A random and meaningless sequence of events.
(D) A struggle between different social classes.

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**58.** Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of the Vedic and Puranic traditions of history writing?
(A) A cyclical concept of time (yugas).
(B) A focus on genealogies (vamshanucharita).
(C) An integration of mythology and historical accounts.
(D) A strict adherence to modern standards of objectivity and evidence.

**59.** R.C. Majumdar is a prominent modern Indian historian known for:
(A) Pioneering the Subaltern studies project.
(B) Writing the official history of the British Empire in India.
(C) Being a major proponent of the Marxist interpretation of Indian history.
(D) Being the chief editor of the multi-volume "History and Culture of the Indian People".

**60.** The first step in the historical research process is typically:
(A) Collection of data.
(B) Selection and formulation of a research problem.
(C) Writing the final narrative.
(D) Critical analysis of secondary sources.

**61.** Which of the following correctly identifies a work by Abul Fazl?
(A) Tarikh-i-Alai
(B) Tabaqat-i-Akbari
(C) Ain-i-Akbari
(D) Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh

**62.** The scope of "economic history" would most likely include the study of:
(A) The development of philosophical thought.
(B) The history of trade guilds, land revenue systems, and technology.
(C) The lives of saints and the growth of religious movements.
(D) The evolution of electoral systems.

**63.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: The Post-modernist approach fundamentally challenges the possibility of achieving a single, objective "truth" about the past.
Statement II: The Post-modernist approach argues that historical accounts are linguistic

constructs or "texts" that do not have a transparent relationship with a real past.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**64.** The need for objectivity in history is emphasized to:
(A) Make history more entertaining.
(B) Ensure history serves the interests of the ruling class.
(C) Eliminate the need for interpretation.
(D) Establish the credibility and academic rigor of history as a discipline.

**65.** A historian arguing that history is an "art" would emphasize the importance of:
(A) Statistical analysis
(B) chemical dating of artifacts
(C) Narrative structure and literary style
(D) The formulation of universal laws

**66.** Consider the following statements:
1. A primary source is always more reliable than a secondary source.
2. A secondary source can be useful for understanding the historiography of a topic.
3. An autobiography is considered a primary source.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**67.** The "Cyclical concept of history" is in direct opposition to which other concept?
(A) The idea that history is driven by great individuals.
(B) The use of primary sources in historical research.
(C) The correlation of history with geography.
(D) The linear concept of history, which sees history as progressing in a line.

**68.** Anand K. Coomaraswamy is noted in the context of modern Indian writers for his contributions to:
(A) The history of Indian art and aesthetics
(B) Political and military history
(C) Economic history and Marxist analysis
(D) The history of the Indian constitution

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**69.** Which pair is correctly matched?
(A) Ziauddin Barani - Akbarnama
(B) Abul Fazl - Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
(C) Kalhana - Rajatarangini
(D) Banabhatta - Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi

**70.** The study of family histories, marriage customs, and the role of women in the past falls under the purview of:
(A) Political history
(B) Intellectual history
(C) History of constitution
(D) Social history

**71.** Which of the following is the most significant contribution of Kalhana's Rajatarangini to Indian historiography?
(A) It was the first historical text written in Sanskrit.
(B) It provides a complete history of all of India.
(C) It is a purely mythological work with no historical value.
(D) It was a conscious attempt at writing a connected regional history.

**72.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Type of History)
P. Social History
Q. Economic History
R. Political History
S. Intellectual History
List II: (Subject of Study)
1. Study of statecraft, wars, and diplomacy.
2. Study of the evolution of philosophical and scientific ideas.
3. Study of class, caste, family, and community structures.
4. Study of trade, agriculture, and industry in the past.

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**73.** A historian who deliberately omits facts that contradict their argument is demonstrating a failure in:
(A) The correlation of history with sociology.
(B) The use of secondary sources.
(C) The cyclical theory of history.
(D) Historical objectivity.

**74.** The "Charit" tradition, such as Banabhatta's 'Harshacharita', is often criticized for its:
(A) Lack of literary merit.
(B) Exclusive focus on economic data.
(C) Use of a language that is difficult to translate.
(D) Tendency towards eulogy and exaggeration in favor of the patron king.

**75.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Nationalist historians in India played a crucial role in constructing a national identity and fostering pride in the country's past.
Reason (R): They often highlighted India's achievements in philosophy, science, art, and governance to counter the negative portrayals by imperialist historians.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**76.** The process of "collection and selection of data" in historical research involves:
(A) Only gathering primary sources.
(B) Identifying, gathering, and critically evaluating sources for reliability.
(C) Accepting all available information as equally valid.
(D) Only using information found in published books.

**77.** Which of the following is an example of the Suta tradition?
(A) The writing of the Puranas by Vyasa.
(B) The compilation of the Tripitakas by Buddhist monks.
(C) The creation of rock edicts by Emperor Ashoka.
(D) The recitation of genealogies and heroic deeds by bards in royal courts.

**78.** Which statement best defines 'cultural history'?
(A) The history of beliefs, values, artistic expressions, and popular customs of a society.
(B) The history of political institutions and their leaders.
(C) The history of warfare and military strategy.
(D) The history of economic production and exchange.

**79.** R.G. Bhandarkar is considered a pioneer of modern history because he:
(A) Wrote the first comprehensive history of the Marathas.
(B) Exclusively used literary sources for his research.
(C) Was the first Indian to write history in English.
(D) Emphasized a critical and analytical approach to sources, moving away from traditional narrative.

**80.** According to the Marxist approach, the primary engine of historical change is:
(A) The will of God.
(B) The actions of charismatic leaders.
(C) The conflict between social classes arising from the economic base of society.
(D) The random interplay of chance events.

**81.** "Evidence and its transmission" is a key concept in historiography because:
(A) It highlights how the content of a source can be altered over time.
(B) It refers to the process of shipping artifacts between museums.
(C) It proves that all primary sources are inherently trustworthy.
(D) It is a synonym for data collection.

**82.** Which of the following statements regarding 'bias in history' is incorrect?
(A) Bias can arise from a historian's religious beliefs or political loyalties.
(B) The patron-client relationship between a historian and a ruler is a major source of

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bias.
(C) A historian's social environment can unconsciously introduce bias into their work.
(D) Bias can be completely eliminated if a historian is properly trained.

**83.** Arrange the following authors in the correct chronological sequence of their historical period.
1. Abul Fazl
2. Banabhatta
3. Yadunath Sarkar
4. Kalhana
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

**84.** The correlation of history with politics is evident when historians study:
(A) The rise and fall of empires, the nature of states, and foreign policy.
(B) The impact of rainfall patterns on agriculture.
(C) The structure of the family and kinship.
(D) The use of metaphors in poetry.

**85.** What does the term "historiography" itself mean?
(A) The writing of history.
(B) The collection of historical artifacts.
(C) The study of how history has been written, the history of historical writing.
(D) The chronological listing of past events.

**86.** Consider the following statements:
1. The Subaltern Studies group sought to write history from the top down, focusing on elites.
2. This approach critiques the elitism of both colonial and nationalist historiographies.
3. It aims to recover the voice and agency of the subordinate groups in history.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**87.** Which of the following modern historians is known for his monumental work on the history of Aurangzeb?
(A) R.C. Majumdar
(B) K.P. Jaiswal
(C) D.D. Kosambi
(D) Yadunath Sarkar

**88.** If a historian studies the spread of Buddhism along the Silk Road, they are engaging in which type of history?
(A) A combination of religious, economic, and world history.
(B) Purely national history of India.
(C) Exclusively constitutional history.
(D) Only intellectual history.

**89.** A key difference between Puranic traditions and modern history writing is:
(A) Puranic traditions use Sanskrit, while modern history uses English.
(B) Puranic traditions focus on kings, while modern history focuses on common people.
(C) Modern history is always biased, while Puranic traditions are objective.
(D) Modern history emphasizes critical evaluation of evidence, absent in Puranics.

**90.** The concept of "historical objectivity" is best understood as:
(A) An unattainable ideal that historians should nonetheless strive for.
(B) A completed achievement of the historical profession.
(C) The exclusion of all interpretation from historical writing.
(D) The belief that history repeats itself.

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**91.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The correlation between history and archaeology is particularly strong for ancient history.
Reason (R): In the absence of sufficient written records for many ancient societies, archaeological evidence becomes a primary source for reconstruction of the past.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct

explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**92.** The school of historiography that views historical writing itself as a form of literature, questioning its claim to represent reality, is:
(A) Marxist
(B) Nationalist
(C) Post-modernist
(D) Imperialist

**93.** Who is the author of 'Tabaqat-i-Nasiri', a history of the Islamic world up to 1260?
(A) Ziauddin Barani
(B) Abul Fazl
(C) Banabhatta
(D) Minhaj-us-siraj

**94.** What is the primary focus of "regional history"?
(A) To narrate the history of the entire world in one volume.
(B) To study the history of a specific, geographically defined area.
(C) To chronicle the lives of a nation's political leaders.
(D) To analyze history exclusively through economic data.

**95.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Historian)
P. K.P. Jaiswal
Q. D.D. Kosambi
R. Yadunath Sarkar
S. R.C. Majumdar
List II: (Associated Idea/Work)
1. Marxist interpretation of Indian history
2. History of Aurangzeb
3. Editor of 'The History and Culture of the Indian People'
4. 'Hindu Polity'
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

**96.** The "Suta" and "Charit" traditions are examples of:
(A) Modern historical writing in India.
(B) British imperialist historiography.
(C) Marxist approaches to history.
(D) Pre-modern indigenous traditions of history writing in India.

**97.** A historian's "gratitude to the patron ruler" might cause bias by leading to:
(A) A critical and unfavorable account of the ruler's reign.
(B) A focus on economic history rather than political history.
(C) The use of archaeological evidence over literary sources.
(D) An over-emphasis on the ruler's virtues while ignoring their failures.

**98.** Which statement best encapsulates the argument that "History is a Science"?
(A) It suggests history uses narrative and imagination to create a compelling story.
(B) It suggests history involves a systematic process of inquiry and evidence gathering.
(C) It suggests history's purpose is to find a deeper philosophical meaning in the past.
(D) It suggests history is primarily concerned with royal biographies.

**99.** The "etymology" of the word history points to its origins as a discipline based on:
(A) Divine revelation
(B) Poetic imagination
(C) Royal decrees
(D) Inquiry and investigation

**100.** A study focusing on the changing perceptions of beauty and fashion in 18th-century France would be an example of:
(A) Cultural history
(B) Political history
(C) Constitutional history
(D) World history

**101.** Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of the Imperialistic approach to Indian history?
(A) The concept of the 'White Man's Burden'.
(B) The portrayal of Indian society as static and unchanging.
(C) The justification of British rule as a modernizing force.
(D) A focus on the glory of India's pre-colonial past.

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**102.** Consider the following statements:
1. Primary sources are original materials from the time period under study.
2. A newspaper article written on the day of an event is a primary source.
3. A biography of a historical figure written 100 years after their death is a primary source.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**103.** The Doctrine of Historical Materialism is a "grand theory" because it:
(A) Seeks to provide a single, overarching framework to explain history.
(B) Was created by a grand committee of historians.
(C) Is only applicable to the history of grand empires.
(D) Focuses exclusively on the grand achievements of great men.

**104.** Who among the following is considered the author of a significant historical work on ancient Kashmir?
(A) Banabhatta
(B) Shukra
(C) Abul Fazl
(D) Kalhana

**105.** "The problem of objectivity in history" refers to the challenge of:
(A) Finding enough sources to write about the past.
(B) Making history profitable as a profession.
(C) Translating ancient languages without error.
(D) The historian's inability to detach from their own context.

**106.** Arrange the following historical approaches in the general order of their emergence and prominence in Indian historiography.
1. Imperialistic
2. Nationalist
3. Subaltern
4. Marxist

(A) 1, 2, 4, 3
(B) 2, 1, 3, 4
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

**107.** Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) History and Geography - Study of spatial context of historical events.
(B) History and Economics - Study of past economic systems.
(C) History and Archaeology - Study of future societal trends.
(D) History and Politics - Study of power and governance.

**108.** The main purpose of the Nationalist school of Indian historiography was to:
(A) Create a sense of national pride and counter colonial narratives of Indian inferiority.
(B) Support and justify British colonial rule.
(C) Analyze Indian history through the lens of class struggle.
(D) Deconstruct all historical narratives as mere fiction.

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**109.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Ziauddin Barani's historical writings are valuable sources for the Delhi Sultanate.
Reason (R): Barani advised historians to be truthful and impartial, and his own work is completely free from personal opinions and biases.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**110.** Which branch of history is concerned with the origin, evolution, and impact of abstract concepts?
(A) History of ideas
(B) Social history
(C) Political history
(D) Regional history

**111.** "History is a philosophy" implies that it seeks to understand:
(A) The patterns, meanings, and underlying principles of the human past.
(B) The chemical composition of artifacts.
(C) The correct dates of all major battles.
(D) The genealogy of every royal family.

**112.** The historical method's emphasis on "evidence and its transmission" warns the researcher about:
(A) The potential for distortion as information is passed through intermediaries.
(B) The physical decay of manuscripts.
(C) The high cost of accessing archives.
(D) The need to publish research findings quickly.

**113.** Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar's work exemplified a shift towards:
(A) A more nationalistic and emotional style of history writing.
(B) A more scientific and critical methodology in Indian historiography.
(C) A focus on the history of art and culture exclusively.
(D) The use of only literary sources to reconstruct the past.

**114.** The Cyclical concept of history, which posits phases of growth, maturity, and decay, can be contrasted with:
(A) The concept of historical bias.
(B) The use of primary sources.
(C) The study of economic history.
(D) The linear-progressive view of history.

**115.** A historian writing a biography of a medieval king, using court chronicles, eulogies, and official histories, must be most aware of the bias resulting from:
(A) Post-modernist skepticism
(B) Marxist class analysis
(C) The need to please a patron
(D) A focus on subaltern perspectives

**116.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Tradition/Author)
P. Suta Tradition
Q. Charit Tradition
R. Puranic Tradition
S. Kalhana
List II: (Characteristic)
1. Vamshanucharita (genealogies)
2. Professional bards and genealogists
3. Royal biographies (e.g., Harshacharita)
4. Critical historical narrative of a region
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

**117.** The Subaltern approach to history primarily focuses on which of the following groups?
(A) Kings, queens, and the ruling nobility.
(B) The industrial capitalist class.
(C) Peasants, tribals, and other non-elite, marginalized sections of society.
(D) The colonial administrators and officials.

**118.** Which statement about the scope of history is the most accurate?
(A) The scope of history is limited to the study of past politics.
(B) The scope of history has expanded to include almost every aspect of life.
(C) The scope of history has narrowed over time to focus only on major wars.
(D) The scope of history excludes the study of religion and culture.

**119.** A defining feature of Post-modernist historiography is its:
(A) Unquestioning belief in progress.
(B) Search for universal laws of history.
(C) Emphasis on deconstructing historical narratives.
(D) Exclusive reliance on quantitative data.

**120.** Consider the following statements:
1. Dharmanand Kosambi was a polymath who contributed to mathematics, Indology, and history.
2. He applied a Marxist framework to the study of ancient Indian history.
3. He focused on the interaction between modes of production, social formations, and cultural developments.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only

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(B) 2 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**121.** The relationship between History and Sociology is best described as:
(A) Unrelated, as one studies the past and the other the present.
(B) Interdependent, as history provides the data and sociology providing the tools.
(C) Identical, with no meaningful distinction.
(D) Conflictual, as their methods are mutually exclusive.

**122.** Which historian is credited with writing 'Hindu Polity', a work that highlighted the existence of democratic and republican traditions in ancient India?
(A) Yadunath Sarkar
(B) R.C. Majumdar
(C) Kashi Prasad Jaiswal
(D) Satishchandra Mittal

**123.** The "meaning of research" in history refers to:
(A) The simple act of reading a history book.
(B) A systematic investigation based on the analysis of sources.
(C) A fictional retelling of a historical event.
(D) A chronological list of dates.

**124.** When a historian attempts to write a "national history," they are primarily focusing on:
(A) The history of a specific village or town.
(B) The interconnected history of the entire globe.
(C) The historical development of a people or state constituting a nation.
(D) The personal history of one individual.

**125.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Orientalist scholars of the late 18th and early 19th centuries produced valuable translations of ancient Indian texts.
Reason (R): Their primary and sole motive was the pure pursuit of knowledge, completely detached from the interests of the British East India Company.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**126.** A document written by a person who was a direct participant in or observer of a historical event is called a:
(A) Secondary source
(B) Tertiary source
(C) Primary source
(D) Historiographical source

**127.** Which of the following is the most accurate definition of "bias in history"?
(A) The use of footnotes in a historical work.
(B) A prejudice that affects a historian's interpretation of the past.
(C) The correlation of history with other social sciences.
(D) The study of history from a global perspective.

**128.** The Buddhist and Jain traditions of history writing are important because they:
(A) Provide the only reliable political history of ancient India.
(B) Offer perspectives on history from non-Brahmanical viewpoints.
(C) Are completely free from religious ideas and biases.
(D) Focus exclusively on economic transactions.

**129.** Abul Fazl's approach in the Akbarnama is notable for its:
(A) Brevity and intentional lack of administrative detail.
(B) Comprehensive scope covering political and social aspects.
(C) Harsh criticism of his patron, Emperor Akbar.
(D) Exclusive reliance on oral traditions from the masses.

**130.** "Political loyalty" as a cause of historical bias is evident when a historian writes an account that:
(A) Critically evaluates all political figures regardless of affiliation.
(B) Uses political science concepts to analyze past events.
(C) Uncritically praises the actions of a

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particular political party, ideology, or nation-state they support.
(D) Studies the history of constitutions and laws.

**131.** The main difference between 'regional history' and 'national history' is one of:
(A) Time period
(B) Scale and focus
(C) Methodology
(D) Source material

**132.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: The argument that history is an art emphasizes the historian's role as a storyteller who must select, arrange, and present facts in a coherent narrative.
Statement II: The argument that history is a science completely dismisses the role of narrative and interpretation.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**133.** The 'collection of data' phase in historical research is followed by the 'selection of data' because:
(A) Not all material will be relevant or authentic for the research.
(B) Historians are required to discard half of the data they find.
(C) The first set of data is always from secondary sources.
(D) Data selection is simply another term for data collection.

**134.** Which of the following best describes the historical approach of Prof. Satishchandra Mittal?
(A) A focus on Marxist dialectics.
(B) A subaltern viewpoint on peasant movements.
(C) An imperialist justification of colonial rule.
(D) A nationalist perspective, often challenging secularist and Marxist interpretations of Indian history.

**135.** Consider the following statements:
1. The Vedic tradition contains historical consciousness, although intertwined with myth and ritual.
2. The Puranas contain long genealogical lists (vamshavalis) which are a form of historical record.
3. The Suta tradition involved bards who preserved historical memories orally.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**136.** A historian studying the impact of the printing press on the spread of Protestant Reformation ideas is primarily engaged in:
(A) Political history
(B) Economic history
(C) Intellectual history and the history of technology
(D) Regional history

**137.** Which of the following is NOT a cause of bias in history?
(A) Social environment
(B) Effect of religion
(C) Use of archaeological evidence
(D) Political loyalty

**138.** The author of Harshacharita, a biography of Emperor Harsha, was:
(A) Kalhana
(B) Shukra
(C) Banabhatta
(D) Abul Fazl

**139.** The 'Religious approach' to history often interprets historical events as:
(A) Determined by economic factors.
(B) A result of random chance.
(C) The unfolding of a divine plan.
(D) A product of class struggle.

**140.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): A historian's choice of subject, sources, and interpretation is never entirely free from subjectivity.

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Reason (R): This inherent subjectivity is what makes history an art, involving personal judgment and narrative skill, rather than a pure science.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**141.** The concept of 'world history' encourages historians to:
(A) Focus solely on the history of their own nation.
(B) Analyze events and processes in a global context.
(C) Ignore all pre-modern history.
(D) View history only from a political perspective.

**142.** The Marxist interpretation of history is an example of which type of historical theory?
(A) A cyclical theory
(B) A 'Great Man' theory
(C) A grand theory based on historical materialism
(D) A post-modernist deconstruction

**143.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Historical Term)
P. Primary Source
Q. Secondary Source
R. Historiography
S. Bias
List II: (Definition)
1. The study of the writing of history.
2. A research article analyzing the French Revolution, written in 2020.
3. A letter written by Napoleon Bonaparte.
4. A prejudice influencing a historian's work.
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**144.** Which of the following is the most appropriate primary source for the study of the French Revolution?
(A) A textbook on European history published in 2010.
(B) A modern documentary on the life of Marie Antoinette.
(C) The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789).
(D) A historical novel set during the Reign of Terror.

**145.** "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." This famous quote reminds historians of the need to avoid:
(A) Anachronism, the error of projecting modern values onto the past.
(B) Using primary sources.
(C) Writing in a clear and accessible style.
(D) Studying the history of foreign countries.

**146.** The main objective of the Imperialist school of historiography on India was to:
(A) Highlight the achievements of Indian rulers.
(B) Demonstrate the legitimacy and benefits of British colonial rule.
(C) Promote a Marxist analysis of Indian society.
(D) Give a voice to the peasant masses.

**147.** A study of caste dynamics, kinship patterns, and social mobility in the Gupta period falls under:
(A) Economic History
(B) Social History
(C) Constitutional History
(D) Intellectual History

**148.** What is a defining characteristic of the "Charit" tradition of writing?
(A) It is a critical analysis of a ruler's failures.
(B) It is a biographical work, often in a laudatory style, centered on a patron.
(C) It is a collection of laws and edicts.
(D) It is an anonymous history of the common people.

**149.** The relationship between History and Literature is complex because:
(A) Literature can be a source for social history if used critically.
(B) Historians are not allowed to read literature.
(C) Literature has no connection to the historical period in which it was written.
(D) History is factual, and literature is fictional,

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so they can never be studied together.

**150.** In historical research, "evidence" is best defined as:
(A) Any personal opinion about the past.
(B) Information from sources used to support an argument.
(C) A complete and objective fact that requires no interpretation.
(D) Only written documents found in an official archive.

**151.** Which of the following is NOT an approach to history?
(A) Marxist
(B) Subaltern
(C) Psychoanalytic
(D) Nationalist

**152.** The term "history from below" is most closely associated with which historical approach?
(A) Imperialist
(B) Subaltern
(C) Orientalist
(D) Religious

**153.** A historian who believes that history unfolds according to a divine will and purpose is adopting which approach?
(A) Marxist
(B) Post-modernist
(C) Religious
(D) Imperialist

**154.** What is the etymological meaning of the Greek word 'historia', from which 'history' is derived?
(A) Storytelling
(B) Prophecy
(C) Inquiry or investigation
(D) Chronology

**155.** Consider the following statements:
1. Kalhana's Rajatarangini is praised for its attempt at critical analysis and use of diverse sources.
2. Banabhatta's Harshacharita is a neutral and objective account of King Harsha's reign.
3. Abul Fazl's Akbarnama was written without any patronage from the Mughal court.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**156.** The work of R.C. Majumdar, particularly his editorship of "The History and Culture of the Indian People" series, is an example of:
(A) Marxist historiography
(B) Post-modernist deconstruction
(C) A major project of Nationalist historiography
(D) Imperialist historiography

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**157.** The 'selection of data' is a crucial step in historical research that directly impacts:
(A) The physical preservation of the source.
(B) The objectivity and validity of the historian's argument.
(C) The selling price of the final book.
(D) The correlation of history with geography.

**158.** The study of the material culture of the past through excavation is the primary method of which correlated discipline?
(A) Sociology
(B) Political Science
(C) Archaeology
(D) Literature

**159.** The main criticism against the Imperialist school of history is that it was:
(A) Ethnocentric and served the interests of colonialism.
(B) Overly focused on the common person.
(C) Written in languages other than English.
(D) Too focused on economic details.

**160.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Subaltern Studies project was a significant development in Indian historiography.
Reason (R): It challenged the elitist bias in existing historical narratives and sought to recover the history of non-elite groups.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**161.** The "Doctrine of historical materialism" is most closely associated with the writings of:
(A) Arnold J. Toynbee
(B) Karl Marx
(C) Leopold von Ranke
(D) Herodotus

**162.** A "National history" of India written from a Nationalist perspective would likely emphasize:
(A) The long history of resistance against foreign rule and the cultural unity of India.
(B) The disunity and chaos of pre-British India.
(C) The history of India as a series of class struggles.
(D) The lack of any significant historical developments before the modern era.

**163.** The Puranic tradition conceived of time as:
(A) Strictly linear and progressive.
(B) Cyclical, moving through great ages or 'yugas'.
(C) Static and unchanging.
(D) A modern social construct.

**164.** What is the fundamental role of 'evidence' in historical writing?
(A) To make the text longer.
(B) To provide a factual foundation and support for the historian's claims.
(C) To confuse the reader.
(D) To be included in a separate appendix.

**165.** Which of the following is a key characteristic of the 'Vedic Tradition' of history?
(A) A clear separation between myth and history.
(B) Historical memory embedded in religious hymns and rituals.
(C) Detailed chronological annals of kings and battles.
(D) A focus on the history of other civilizations.

**166.** A historian claiming that "History is a philosophy" is likely to be interested in:
(A) The specific dates of events.
(B) The scientific analysis of artifacts.
(C) The overarching patterns and meaning of the past.
(D) The biographies of military leaders.

**167.** Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) Minhaj-us-siraj : Wrote primarily about the reign of Akbar.
(B) Ziauddin Barani : A historian of the Delhi Sultanate, author of Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi.
(C) Abul Fazl : A historian of ancient Kashmir.
(D) Kalhana : A court historian of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

**168.** The study of past epidemics and their impact on society would fall under which historical sub-field?
(A) Primarily social history, with links to economic and political history.
(B) Exclusively political history.
(C) Constitutional history.
(D) The history of ideas.

**169.** What is a major pitfall a historian must avoid when using literary sources like poems or plays?
(A) Appreciating their artistic merit.
(B) Treating them as direct reflections of factual reality.
(C) Understanding the language in which they are written.
(D) Placing them in their correct historical context.

**170.** Which of the following best describes the 'Orientalist' approach?
(A) The study of the Orient (East) by Western scholars, often romanticizing its past.
(B) The history written by people from Eastern countries.
(C) A historical approach that predicts the future.
(D) A critique of all forms of historical writing.

**171.** The "need for objectivity in history" arises from the desire to:
(A) Make history a form of creative fiction.
(B) Ensure history is a respectable and credible academic discipline.
(C) Use history for political propaganda.
(D) Eliminate all disagreement among historians.

**172.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (School of Thought)

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P. Imperialist
Q. Nationalist
R. Marxist
S. Subaltern

List II: (Representative Historian/Group)
1. Ranajit Guha
2. D.D. Kosambi
3. Vincent Smith
4. R.C. Majumdar

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**173.** The concept of historical materialism suggests that the foundation of any society is its:
(A) Religious beliefs
(B) Political structure
(C) Economic mode of production
(D) Great leaders

**174.** Which of the following is an example of a cause of bias stemming from "social environment"?
(A) A historian in a highly patriarchal society overlooking the role of women in the past.
(B) A historian receiving money from a king to write a favorable history.
(C) A historian who is a devout believer writing a history of their own religion.
(D) A historian whose political views align with a particular party.

**175.** Consider the following statements:
1. Abul Fazl was a court historian for Emperor Akbar.
2. His work, the Akbarnama, is considered a valuable source for the period.
3. His writing is completely objective and free from any praise of his patron.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**176.** The "problem of objectivity" is magnified in history compared to natural sciences because:
(A) The historian is part of the subject they study (humanity) and cannot be a completely detached observer.
(B) History deals with events that cannot be replicated in a laboratory.
(C) Historical sources are often incomplete and require interpretation.
(D) All of the above.

**177.** A historian tracing the evolution of the concept of 'dharma' through various ancient Indian texts is conducting research in:
(A) Economic history
(B) History of ideas
(C) Military history
(D) Constitutional history

**178.** What does "transmission" in the phrase "evidence and its transmission" refer to?
(A) The physical act of carrying a document.
(B) The process by which historical information is passed down and potentially changed.
(C) The publication of a history book.
(D) The final, unalterable version of a historical fact.

**179.** A key aim of the Subaltern Studies collective was to:
(A) Write a definitive political history of modern India.
(B) Re-evaluate history from the perspective of marginalized groups.
(C) Justify the British colonial presence in India.
(D) Create a grand theory to explain all of human history.

**180.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Kalhana's Rajatarangini is considered a landmark in Indian historiography.
Reason (R): Unlike earlier chroniclers, Kalhana displays a modern sense of causality, critical use of sources, and a degree of impartiality.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**181.** Which of the following is the best example of a primary source for the study of the Indus Valley Civilization?

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(A) A book written by R.C. Majumdar.
(B) Seals and pottery excavated from Mohenjo-Daro.
(C) A newspaper article from 1947.
(D) The accounts of Megasthenes.

**182.** The view of history as cyclical, as seen in some ancient traditions, means that:
(A) History is seen as repeating patterns of growth and decay.
(B) History progresses in a straight line towards a final goal.
(C) History is completely random and unpredictable.
(D) There is no such thing as historical change.

**183.** The work of Anand K. Coomaraswamy is primarily associated with which field of historical study?
(A) Economic history
(B) History of art and aesthetics
(C) Military history
(D) Constitutional history

**184.** A historian who is a staunch nationalist might be biased towards:
(A) Portraying their nation's history in an overly positive light.
(B) Highlighting only the negative aspects of their nation's past.
(C) Ignoring their nation's history completely.
(D) Focusing only on the economic aspects of their nation's history.

**185.** When history is correlated with economics, it helps to understand:
(A) The philosophical ideas of an era.
(B) The structure of government and political alliances.
(C) The literary styles prevalent in a period.
(D) The material basis of a society, including production, trade, and class relations.

**186.** Which of the following is NOT a part of the historian's research process?
(A) Collection and selection of data.
(B) Conducting laboratory experiments to replicate past events.
(C) Critical analysis of primary and secondary sources.
(D) Formulation of a hypothesis and construction of a narrative.

**187.** The post-modernist approach to history would be most likely to:
(A) Establish a definitive and final account of a historical event.
(B) Analyze a historical text to uncover its hidden biases and assumptions.
(C) Propose a new grand theory of history.
(D) Ignore literary sources entirely.

**188.** Yadunath Sarkar's extensive use of Persian sources and his detailed, narrative-driven accounts are hallmarks of his work on:
(A) The Maurya Empire
(B) The Gupta Empire
(C) The Mughal Empire
(D) The British Raj

**189.** The term 'Itihasa' in the Indian tradition, often translated as history, literally means:
(A) "The will of the gods"
(B) "Thus it was" or "so it has been"
(C) "The story of the king"
(D) "A lesson for the future"

**190.** Which of the following is an example of an 'incorrect pair'?
(A) Banabhatta - Harshacharita
(B) Kalhana - Rajatarangini
(C) Ziauddin Barani - Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
(D) Abul Fazl - Akbarnama

**191.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: Absolute objectivity is easily achievable for any historian who follows the correct method.
Statement II: Striving for objectivity involves acknowledging one's own biases and being transparent about the use of evidence.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
(D) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

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**192.** A study that analyzes the changing legal rights of citizens and the evolution of a country's governing document would be classified as:
(A) Social history
(B) History of constitution
(C) Economic history
(D) Cultural history

**193.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Author)
P. Shukra
Q. Minhaj-us-siraj
R. K.P. Jaiswal
S. D.D. Kosambi
List II: (Associated Concept/Work)
1. Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
2. Hindu Polity
3. Application of Marxist analysis
4. Ancient treatise on statecraft (Nitisara)
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

**194.** The Suta tradition primarily involved:
(A) Written chronicles kept in monasteries.
(B) Royal decrees inscribed on stone pillars.
(C) Philosophical debates among scholars.
(D) Oral transmission of genealogies and heroic tales by bards.

**195.** Consider the following statements:
1. Imperialist historiography often described pre-British India as a period of anarchy.
2. Nationalist historiography sought to counter this by highlighting the achievements of ancient and medieval India.
3. Subaltern historiography criticizes both Imperialist and Nationalist schools for ignoring the voices of common people.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**196.** The "meaning, definition of history" has evolved over time from being a simple narration of events to:
(A) A critical inquiry into the human past in all its aspects.
(B) A form of entertainment.
(C) A purely scientific discipline with predictive laws.
(D) A branch of literature.

**197.** Which modern historian is particularly known for challenging established secular narratives of Indian history from a nationalist viewpoint?
(A) D.D. Kosambi
(B) Yadunath Sarkar
(C) Satishchandra Mittal
(D) R.G. Bhandarkar

**198.** The 'effect of religion' on a historian's bias is seen when their writing:
(A) Is structured to prove the superiority of their own faith.
(B) Includes dates from a religious calendar.
(C) Discusses the history of a religious institution.
(D) Is translated into a language used by a religious group.

**199.** A coin from the reign of Samudragupta is an example of what type of historical source?
(A) A secondary source
(B) A literary source
(C) A primary archaeological source
(D) A historiographical essay

**200.** The debate about whether history is a science or an art centers on the tension between:
(A) Objectivity and subjectivity
(B) Ancient and modern history
(C) Political and social history
(D) Primary and secondary sources

**201.** Which of the following is the most appropriate description of a 'secondary source'?
(A) A source created at the time of the event.
(B) A source that is of lesser importance.
(C) A source that has been translated from its original language.
(D) A source interpreting primary materials created after the event.

**202.** The Marxist approach views history as a progression of stages primarily defined by:
(A) The mode of production

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(B) The dominant religion
(C) The form of government
(D) The race of the people

**203.** "Gratitude to the patron ruler" was a common source of bias in which tradition of history writing?
(A) Post-modernist
(B) Subaltern
(C) Charit tradition
(D) Marxist

**204.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): A historian must critically evaluate all sources, including primary ones.
Reason (R): A primary source, such as a diary or a government report, can contain its own biases, errors, or deliberate misinformation.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**205.** The study of how a society's understanding of its own past has been shaped and reshaped over time is the subject of:
(A) Political history
(B) Historiography
(C) Economic history
(D) Archaeology

**206.** In the context of historiography, what is a "grand theory"?
(A) A theory that is very popular.
(B) A theory that is physically large.
(C) An all-encompassing theory explaining the sweep of history.
(D) A theory about a grand and important historical figure.

**207.** Which of the following is an example of an intellectual history topic?
(A) The military tactics of the Battle of Plassey.
(B) The impact of Darwin's theory of evolution on European thought.
(C) The fluctuations in the price of wheat in medieval England.
(D) The construction techniques of Roman aqueducts.

**208.** The main contribution of K.P. Jaiswal to Nationalist historiography was:
(A) His economic history of the British period.
(B) His work on the Mughal administration.
(C) His thesis in 'Hindu Polity' which argued against stereotypes.
(D) His analysis of the 1857 revolt from a subaltern perspective.

**209.** The correlation between History and Geography is crucial for understanding:
(A) How spatial factors have influenced historical development.
(B) The philosophical underpinnings of a society.
(C) The literary motifs in a historical narrative.
(D) The personal biases of a historian.

**210.** Which statement incorrectly describes the nature of history?
(A) History as a science emphasizes methodology and evidence.
(B) History as an art emphasizes narrative and interpretation.
(C) History provides absolute, unchanging truths that are not open to reinterpretation.
(D) History as a philosophy seeks deeper meanings and patterns.

**211.** Which of the following is a defining characteristic of the Jain tradition of history writing?
(A) A complete absence of dates and chronologies.
(B) Historical accounts integrated within hagiographies.
(C) An exclusive focus on the political history of North India.
(D) The use of Persian as the primary language.

**212.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Historical Writing)
P. Rajatarangini
Q. Harshacharita
R. Akbarnama
S. Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi
List II: (Author)
1. Ziauddin Barani

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2. Abul Fazl
3. Banabhatta
4. Kalhana

Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**213.** A key feature of the Puranic tradition of history is the concept of 'Vamshanucharita', which refers to:
(A) The description of the cosmos.
(B) The chronological account of dynasties.
(C) The laws of social conduct.
(D) The theory of statecraft.

**214.** The term "objectivity" in history implies:
(A) Writing history that is free of facts.
(B) A detached and impartial approach, minimizing personal bias.
(C) Presenting only one side of the story.
(D) The belief that all historical sources are equally true.

**215.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: The Nationalist approach to Indian history was a direct reaction to the writings of Imperialist historians.
Statement II: The Subaltern approach critiques both the Imperialist and Nationalist histories for being elitist.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**216.** The historical work of Minhaj-us-siraj is important for understanding the history of:
(A) The early Delhi Sultanate.
(B) The reign of Akbar.
(C) The Gupta period.
(D) The Maratha empire.

**217.** "Social environment" as a cause of bias means a historian's interpretation can be shaped by:
(A) The prevailing cultural norms and unstated assumptions of their own society.
(B) The amount of funding they receive for their research.
(C) The geographical location of their university.
(D) The political party currently in power.

**218.** The study of the history of technology, labor relations, and market development falls under:
(A) Religious history
(B) Cultural history
(C) Economic history
(D) Intellectual history

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**219.** Consider the following statements:
1. Research begins with the formulation of a question.
2. It involves the critical examination of sources.
3. The final output is a narrative or analysis supported by evidence.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**220.** The primary aim of the post-modernist critique of history is to:
(A) Establish a new grand narrative.
(B) Prove that the past did not exist.
(C) Deconstruct "objective" accounts to reveal their constructed nature.
(D) Promote a purely scientific and empirical approach to history.

**221.** Which modern historian's name is associated with a multi-volume history of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb?
(A) R.G. Bhandarkar
(B) Yadunath Sarkar
(C) K.P. Jaiswal
(D) D.D. Kosambi

**222.** The correlation between history and literature is strong because both disciplines:
(A) Often use narrative as a primary mode of expression.
(B) Are exclusively concerned with fictional events.
(C) Are sciences that produce falsifiable hypotheses.

(D) Rely solely on statistical data.

**223.** What does it mean to say history has a "scope"?
(A) It refers to the range of subjects, themes, and areas that the discipline covers.
(B) It refers to the tools, like a telescope, that historians use.
(C) It refers to the historian's personal opinion.
(D) It refers to the chronological limits of history.

**224.** The work of R.G. Bhandarkar is an example of the shift in modern Indian historiography towards:
(A) Romanticizing the past.
(B) Using history for political propaganda.
(C) A more critical, scientific, and source-based approach.
(D) A complete rejection of Western historical methods.

**225.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The use of primary sources is essential for authentic historical research.
Reason (R): Primary sources are eyewitness accounts or materials contemporary to the event and are therefore completely free from bias and error.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**226.** The study of the evolution of women's roles in society over centuries is a key topic in:
(A) Political history
(B) Social history
(C) Constitutional history
(D) Economic history

**227.** The 'cyclical concept of history' is a 'grand theory' because it proposes a universal pattern for:
(A) A single nation's history.
(B) The rise and fall of all civilizations.
(C) The life of an individual.
(D) The creation of a historical text.

**228.** Which author is correctly paired with his work?
(A) Kalhana - Akbarnama
(B) Banabhatta - Rajatarangini
(C) Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi - Ziauddin Barani
(D) Abul Fazl - Harshacharita

**229.** The Nationalist historians of India, such as R.C. Majumdar and K.P. Jaiswal, wrote primarily to:
(A) Provide a historical justification for British rule.
(B) Apply Marxist theory to Indian history.
(C) Deconstruct the idea of the Indian nation.
(D) Instill a sense of national pride and counter colonial historiography.

**230.** A major cause of bias in history writing is 'political loyalty.' This refers to the historian's allegiance to a:
(A) Specific methodology
(B) University or institution
(C) Nation, political party, or ideology
(D) Literary genre

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**231.** The primary difference between history and archaeology is that:
(A) History uses written sources while archaeology primarily uses material remains.
(B) History is an art while archaeology is a science.
(C) Historians study the past, while archaeologists study the present.
(D) There is no difference; the terms are interchangeable.

**232.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: The Subaltern school of historiography focuses on the role of elites in shaping history.
Statement II: The Marxist school of historiography analyzes history through the lens of class struggle and economic structures.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**233.** The 'Charit' literature, like the Harshacharita, can be best described as:
(A) A collection of laws
(B) A historical biography, often eulogistic
(C) A religious text
(D) A geographical survey

**234.** In historical research, what is the process of 'selection of data'?
(A) Choosing a topic to research.
(B) Gathering all possible sources.
(C) Evaluating and choosing the most relevant information.
(D) Writing the final conclusion.

**235.** The Orientalist approach is characterized by:
(A) A scholarly interest in the languages and history of the East by Westerners.
(B) A hostile attitude towards Eastern cultures.
(C) The historical writing of Eastern scholars for an Eastern audience.
(D) A focus on economic exploitation as the sole motive for colonialism.

**236.** Who wrote the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, a comprehensive history of Islamic dynasties?
(A) Ziauddin Barani
(B) Abul Fazl
(C) Kalhana
(D) Minhaj-us-siraj

**237.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Term)
P. Etymology
Q. Objectivity
R. Bias
S. Scope
List II: (Concept in History)
1. Prejudice or partiality
2. Range of topics covered
3. Striving for impartiality
4. Origin of the word 'history'
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**238.** D.D. Kosambi is a significant figure in Indian historiography for his pioneering use of:
(A) The Marxist framework combined with philology and statistics.
(B) The Imperialist framework.
(C) The Nationalist framework.
(D) The Post-modernist framework.

**239.** The view that history is the story of class struggle is central to which approach?
(A) Nationalist
(B) Imperialist
(C) Religious
(D) Marxist

**240.** The phrase "evidence and its transmission" highlights the fact that:
(A) Historical evidence is static and never changes.
(B) The way information is passed down can affect its accuracy and meaning.
(C) All evidence is transmitted electronically today.
(D) Evidence is not important for historical writing.

**241.** Consider the following statements:
1. Political history deals with statecraft, government, and international relations.
2. Social history deals with the everyday life, customs, and structure of societies.
3. Economic history deals with production, distribution, and consumption.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**242.** A historian writing an officially commissioned history of a ruling dynasty would have to be particularly wary of which cause of bias?
(A) Effect of religion
(B) Gratitude to the patron ruler
(C) Social environment
(D) Post-modernist ideas

**243.** The "history of ideas" is a branch of history that traces:
(A) The succession of kings and queens.
(B) The development of specific concepts over time.
(C) The history of trade routes.

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(D) The history of military technology.

**244.** Who is the author of 'Rajatarangini', a history of the kings of Kashmir?
(A) Banabhatta
(B) Kalhana
(C) Abul Fazl
(D) Ziauddin Barani

**245.** The need for historical objectivity is a professional ethic that requires historians to:
(A) Be as impartial as possible, supported by evidence.
(B) Write fiction instead of history.
(C) Agree with each other on all interpretations.
(D) Ignore any evidence that contradicts their thesis.

**246.** Which of the following is NOT an approach to history?
(A) Environmental
(B) Subaltern
(C) Orientalist
(D) Marxist

**247.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The correlation of history with sociology is highly fruitful for historical analysis.
Reason (R): Sociology provides theoretical concepts about social structure, social change, and institutions that historians can apply to understand past societies.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**248.** The "Suta" tradition of ancient India was primarily:
(A) An oral tradition of history-telling by bards.
(B) A written tradition maintained by priests.
(C) A tradition of inscribing royal edicts on stone.
(D) A tradition of philosophical debate.

**249.** Which of the following statements about primary and secondary sources is the most accurate?
(A) Primary sources are always truthful and objective.
(B) Secondary sources are of no value to a historian.
(C) The same document can be primary for one question and secondary for another.
(D) Only primary sources should be used in historical research.

**250.** The work of writers like R.C. Majumdar and K.P. Jaiswal represents which major school of Indian historiography?
(A) Imperialist
(B) Nationalist
(C) Marxist
(D) Subaltern

**251.** The study of the past from the point of view of the colonizers, often to justify colonial rule, is characteristic of which approach?
(A) Imperialistic
(B) Nationalist
(C) Marxist
(D) Subaltern

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**252.** The fundamental meaning of research in history is to:
(A) Memorize a list of dates and names.
(B) Systematic inquiry into facts and theories based on evidence.
(C) Create an entertaining story based on a historical setting.
(D) Read as many existing history books as possible.

**253.** Which of the following best describes the core idea of the 'cyclical concept of history'?
(A) History progresses linearly towards a perfect future.
(B) History moves through repeating phases of growth and decay.
(C) History is determined solely by economic forces.
(D) History is a collection of random, unconnected events.

**254.** The historical writings of Ziauddin Barani are a major source for the history of which period?

(A) The Mauryan Empire
(B) The Gupta Empire
(C) The Delhi Sultanate under the Khaljis and Tughlaqs
(D) The reign of Mughal emperor Akbar

**255.** Given below are two statements:
Statement I: The Puranic tradition of history writing included genealogies of kings and a cyclical concept of time.
Statement II: The Charit tradition focused on writing eulogistic biographies of patron rulers.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**256.** A historian who is influenced by their "social environment" might unconsciously:
(A) Project the values and concerns of their own society onto the past.
(B) Forge historical documents.
(C) Use only archaeological sources.
(D) Refuse to consult secondary literature.

**257.** Which of these authors belongs to the medieval period of Indian history writing?
(A) Abul Fazl
(B) Banabhatta
(C) Kalhana
(D) Yadunath Sarkar

**258.** The post-modernist school of thought challenges the very idea of:
(A) Chronology in history.
(B) The existence of the past.
(C) Achieving objective historical truth.
(D) Using sources in historical research.

**259.** A key difference between 'national history' and 'world history' is the difference in:
(A) The time period studied.
(B) The language of the sources.
(C) The political beliefs of the historian.
(D) The geographical and conceptual scale of analysis.

**260.** The primary method of archaeology, which is a key allied discipline of history, is:
(A) Excavation and analysis of material remains
(B) Textual criticism
(C) Oral interviews
(D) Statistical modeling

**261.** The 'religious approach' to history views historical causality as stemming from:
(A) Economic class conflict.
(B) The actions of great individuals.
(C) Divine will or intervention.
(D) Random chance.

**262.** Consider the following statements:
1. Bias can be conscious and deliberate.
2. Bias can be unconscious and unintentional.
3. Complete elimination of all bias is a recognized goal, though exceptionally difficult to achieve.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**263.** The tradition of writing 'Charitas' or biographies of kings, like the Harshacharita, is an example of which kind of bias?
(A) Bias stemming from gratitude and dependence on a patron.
(B) Bias stemming from Marxist ideology.
(C) Bias stemming from a subaltern perspective.
(D) Bias stemming from a post-modernist disbelief in truth.

**264.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Approach)
P. Post-modernist
Q. Marxist
R. Imperialist
S. Nationalist
List II: (Key Idea)
1. History is a tool to justify colonial rule.
2. History is a narrative construct; grand theories are suspect.
3. History is used to build national pride and resist colonialism.
4. History is a history of class struggle.
Codes:

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(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**265.** The term 'historia' in its original Greek context implied:
(A) Knowledge acquired through investigation
(B) A simple story
(C) A divinely inspired tale
(D) A chronological list

**266.** A study focused on the development of the Indian Parliament since 1947 would be an example of:
(A) History of constitution and political history
(B) Ancient history
(C) Economic history
(D) Religious history

**267.** When a historian studies the past social structures, family life, and community relations, he/she is working within the scope of:
(A) Political history
(B) Intellectual history
(C) The history of ideas
(D) Social history

**268.** The writings of R. G. Bhandarkar in the 19th century were significant because they promoted:
(A) A scientific and evidence-based approach to history.
(B) A romantic and uncritical view of the past.
(C) A justification for British rule.
(D) A Marxist interpretation of ancient India.

**269.** What is the main argument of those who consider history an "art"?
(A) That it involves imagination, interpretation, and narrative.
(B) That it requires scientific precision.
(C) That it should only be presented in museums.
(D) That it is purely fictional.

**270.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Doctrine of Historical Materialism proposes that the economic base of a society determines its social, political, and intellectual superstructure.
Reason (R): According to this doctrine, history progresses through stages driven by conflicts between social classes over the means of production.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**271.** An autobiography of a prime minister is a:
(A) Primary source
(B) Secondary source
(C) Tertiary source
(D) Useless source

**272.** The "Subaltern" in the context of the Subaltern Studies school refers to:
(A) People of subordinate rank or social status; the masses.
(B) The ruling elite
(C) The colonial administrators
(D) The intellectual class

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**273.** The work of Shukra (as in the Shukraniti) is traditionally associated with which field?
(A) Statecraft and political science (niti)
(B) Epic poetry
(C) Religious philosophy
(D) Art history

**274.** If a historian chooses to ignore evidence that contradicts their thesis, they are violating the principle of:
(A) Historical objectivity
(B) Chronological ordering
(C) Narrative construction
(D) Historiography

**275.** Which historian is most famous for his pioneering Marxist analysis of ancient Indian history?
(A) D. D. Kosambi
(B) Yadunath Sarkar
(C) R. C. Majumdar
(D) K. P. Jaiswal

**276.** The relationship between history and sociology is that history often provides the:

(A) Specific case studies and data from the past.
(B) Theoretical models used for prediction.
(C) Universal laws that apply to all civilizations.
(D) Fundamental philosophical questions of existence.

**277.** The Puranic tradition is an important source for which aspect of ancient Indian history?
(A) Royal genealogies and dynastic succession.
(B) Detailed economic statistics of the period.
(C) The political history of South India.
(D) A subaltern perspective on society.

**278.** "A historian should be fearless and incorruptible, a free man, a friend of truth." This ideal reflects the importance of what concept in historiography?
(A) Objectivity
(B) Bias
(C) Cyclical history
(D) Subaltern studies

**279.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement about historical approaches?
(A) The Subaltern approach focuses on the history of kings and presidents.
(B) The Imperialist approach sought to legitimize colonial rule.
(C) The Nationalist approach sought to build pride in the nation's past.
(D) The Marxist approach focuses on class conflict and economic factors.

**280.** A historian's "political loyalty" is most likely to create bias in a history of:
(A) A recent war or political movement.
(B) Ancient pottery techniques.
(C) The development of a mathematical concept.
(D) The migration patterns of birds.

**281.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Historian)
P. Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar
Q. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar
R. Anand K. Coomaraswamy
S. Satishchandra Mittal
List II: (Contribution / Perspective)
1. Nationalist historian, editor of "History and Culture of the Indian People".
2. Art historian.
3. Nationalist writer challenging secularist narratives.
4. Pioneer of scientific method in Indian history.
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

**282.** The process of collecting historical data involves all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Inventing sources to fit a specific theory.
(B) Visiting archives and libraries for research.
(C) Examining archaeological artifacts and remains.
(D) Conducting oral history interviews with witnesses.

**283.** The main focus of 'cultural history' is the study of:
(A) The shared meanings and symbols of a group.
(B) Wars and international diplomacy.
(C) The succession of national rulers.
(D) The history of economic indicators.

**284.** Which of the following is a 'grand theory of history'?
(A) Doctrine of historical materialism
(B) Post-modernism
(C) Subaltern Studies
(D) Orientalism

**285.** The core of the post-modernist approach to history is:
(A) A skepticism toward grand narratives and truth.
(B) A focus on economic determinism.
(C) A celebration of nationalist achievements.
(D) A belief in the divine plan for history.

**286.** When a historian investigates the development of a country's legal system, they are working within the scope of:
(A) History of constitution
(B) History of ideas
(C) Religious history
(D) World history

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**287.** Which of the following statements about historical sources is most accurate?
(A) A secondary source can be a primary source for historiography research.
(B) A primary source is inherently more valuable than a secondary source.
(C) A historian should never use secondary sources in their research.
(D) A primary source is always a written document found in an archive.

**288.** The "effect of religion" as a cause of bias is demonstrated when a historian:
(A) Interprets historical events as proof of faith superiority.
(B) Writes a history of a religious movement.
(C) Uses a religious calendar for dating.
(D) Acknowledges the role of religion in society.

**289.** Which of the following best represents the Nationalist historical approach in India?
(A) Emphasizing India's past achievements to counter colonial stereotypes.
(B) Justifying the 'civilizing mission' of the British.
(C) Highlighting the agency of peasant and tribal groups.
(D) Analyzing all historical events through the prism of class struggle.

**290.** Consider the following statements:
1. Ziauddin Barani was a historian of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. Kalhana's Rajatarangini is a history of Kashmir.
3. Banabhatta wrote the Harshacharita in praise of his patron.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**291.** "History is a science of reasoning". This statement implies that history:
(A) Is based on logical deduction from evidence.
(B) Is a collection of interesting stories.
(C) Is purely subjective.
(D) Can predict the future with certainty.

**292.** A historian writing about the "Suta tradition" would be discussing:
(A) The monastic chronicles of Buddhist writers.
(B) The official court records of the Mughal empire.
(C) Oral history bards and charioteers.
(D) The scientific historiography of the 20th century.

**293.** The problem of historical objectivity arises because the historian:
(A) Cannot be fully detached from their personal values and context.
(B) Does not have enough sources.
(C) Is not paid enough.
(D) Writes in a language that is not scientific.

**294.** What is the best definition for a 'primary source' in historical research?
(A) A source created by a witness to an event.
(B) The most important source for a research paper.
(C) A summary of historical events found in an encyclopedia.
(D) A textbook written by a famous historian.

**295.** Which of the following correctly pairs a historical approach with its central concern?
(A) Subaltern - History of the marginalized
(B) Nationalist - Class struggle
(C) Marxist - Justification of colonialism
(D) Imperialist - Deconstruction of narratives

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**296.** The main objective of a historian should be to:
(A) Provide a well-reasoned, evidence-based account.
(B) Prove a pre-decided political point.
(C) Create an entertaining narrative.
(D) Discover universal laws of society.

**297.** Given below are two statements: one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The scope of history has expanded significantly from its traditional focus on politics and war.
Reason (R): Modern historians now study social, economic, cultural, and intellectual aspects of the past, reflecting a more holistic view of past societies.

(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**298.** Which of these is an example of the "correlation of history with politics"?
(A) Studying how past political theories have shaped structures.
(B) Studying how geography influenced the location of a battle.
(C) Studying how literary themes reflect social anxieties.
(D) Studying how economic depression affects birth rates.

**299.** Arrange the following historical figures chronologically based on the period they wrote about or lived in.
1. Minhaj-us-siraj
2. Banabhatta
3. Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar
4. Abul Fazl
(A) 2, 1, 4, 3
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 4, 1, 3
(D) 3, 4, 1, 2

**300.** The key difference between the 'cyclical concept of history' and the 'doctrine of historical materialism' is that:
(A) Cyclical theory sees history as repetitive, while materialism sees it as progressive.
(B) Cyclical theory is Marxist, while materialism is not.
(C) Cyclical theory focuses on great men, while materialism focuses on ideas.
(D) There is no difference between the two theories.

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# ANSWERS

1. (B) It is derived from the Greek word 'historia', meaning 'inquiry'.
The term history originates from the ancient Greek word historia, which signifies inquiry or knowledge acquired by investigation. This etymological root highlights that the discipline is not merely about reciting stories but involves a systematic process of research and questioning. It emphasizes that understanding the past requires active investigation, critical thinking, and a commitment to discovering facts through evidence.

2. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
History is uniquely positioned as both a science and an art. Its scientific nature is evident in its reliance on empirical evidence, critical methodologies, and the goal of objectivity. Meanwhile, its artistic dimension appears in the historian's use of narrative skill and imagination to interpret fragmented data. This dual character ensures that historical writing is both factually grounded and meaningfully presented.

3. (C) Futurology
While history examines the human past through various lenses like intellectual developments, ideas, and legal structures, its scope is inherently retrospective. Fields like the history of ideas and constitutional history are well-established branches of the discipline. Futurology, however, involves predicting future trends based on current data. It is considered a separate social science because it looks forward rather than backward.

4. (D) The inherent subjectivity of the historian and their personal context.
Objectivity in historical writing is often hindered by the personal biases and socio-cultural context of the researcher. A historian's upbringing, political leanings, and personal values can unconsciously influence how they interpret evidence and construct their narrative. This internal subjectivity means that the historian's perspective is always part of the history they produce, making a purely detached account very difficult.

5. (C) A historian's gratitude to a patron ruler
Bias in historical accounts can be significantly influenced by the relationship between the writer and their benefactor. When a historian receives patronage from a ruler, they may feel a strong sense of gratitude or obligation to portray that ruler in a positive light. This often results in the glorification of specific individuals and the deliberate omission of their mistakes or failures.

6. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Different disciplines offer unique perspectives on the past when correlated with history. Archaeology provides physical evidence from material remains to verify historical accounts. Sociology offers frameworks for understanding social structures and community changes. Economics focuses on past production and trade patterns, while political science analyzes power dynamics and statecraft. Together, these interdisciplinary connections provide a more comprehensive view of human history.

7. (D) Primary sources are contemporary to the event, while secondary sources are interpretations.
Primary sources are original materials created by individuals who directly witnessed or participated in historical events, making them contemporary to the period. Secondary sources are works produced after the events have occurred, offering analysis, synthesis, or interpretation of primary data. The fundamental distinction lies in the temporal relationship to the event, where primary sources provide direct evidence.

8. (A) Imperialistic approach
The Nationalist approach to history in India developed during the colonial period as a direct challenge to Imperialistic historiography. Imperialist writers often portrayed Indian society as stagnant or inferior to justify British rule. Nationalist historians countered these narratives by highlighting India's ancient achievements and cultural unity. This school of thought aimed to foster national pride through historical research.

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**9.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The cyclical concept of history views the human past as a series of repeating patterns, often involving the rise, maturity, and decay of civilizations. This perspective is distinct from the linear concept, which suggests a continuous progression toward a specific end. While the assertion correctly describes the cyclical view, the reason describes a linear progression, making it a false explanation.

**10.** (A) A genealogical list of kings and dynasties
Within the Puranic tradition, historical consciousness is often expressed through a specific narrative framework known as the five characteristics. A central element of this structure is the recording of genealogies, which lists various kings and dynasties. This focus on royal lineages reflects an indigenous form of historical record-keeping that preserves the memory of past political authority and ancestral connections.

**11.** (D) Laudatory biographies of kings and patrons.
The Charit tradition in ancient India represents a genre of historical biography centered on the lives of specific rulers. These works, such as the Harshacharita, were often written by court poets to honor their patrons. While they contain historical details, they are characterized by their laudatory style, emphasizing the virtues and achievements of the king through highly stylized language.

**12.** (D) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Historical research begins with the comprehensive collection of diverse sources, including original documents and later scholarly interpretations. Once this data is gathered, the researcher must undergo a rigorous selection process to determine which pieces of information are most relevant and trustworthy for their study. Both gathering information and critically choosing evidence are essential steps in creating a reliable historical narrative.

**13.** (C) Shukra
Shukra is traditionally credited with the authorship of the Nitisara, a significant ancient treatise that deals with principles of statecraft, governance, and social conduct. This work provides insights into the political organization and administrative practices of the time. Unlike purely narrative histories, it offers a theoretical and practical framework for ruling, reflecting an important aspect of ancient Indian thought.

**14.** (D) Marxist
Historical materialism is a theoretical framework most closely linked to the Marxist approach to historiography. It posits that the material conditions and economic structures of a society are the primary drivers of historical change. This perspective focuses on class struggle and the relationship between the means of production and the social superstructure, viewing history as a progressive sequence of developmental stages.

**15.** (A) 2 only
Objectivity in history does not mean avoiding interpretation, as facts require a narrative framework to be meaningful. Instead, it involves striving for a fair and balanced account supported by evidence. While absolute objectivity is an elusive ideal rather than an easily attainable goal, the pursuit of it is essential to ensure that history remains a credible and academically rigorous discipline.

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**16.** (B) Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi
Ziauddin Barani was a prominent historian of the Delhi Sultanate who is most famous for his work, the Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi. This text provides a detailed account of the reigns of several Sultans, beginning with Balban. Barani's writing is significant because it includes his reflections on the duties of a historian and the political and social conditions of the period.

**17.** (B) Abul Fazl's Akbarnama.
Primary sources for the Mughal period include documents, letters, and chronicles written during that time. Abul Fazl's Akbarnama is a quintessential primary source because it was authored by a contemporary official who lived during Emperor Akbar's reign. In contrast, modern biographies or textbooks written centuries later are considered secondary sources because they provide interpretation of earlier original materials.

**18.** (A) Subaltern
The Subaltern approach represents a shift in historiography away from elite-centric narratives

toward the experiences of marginalized groups. It focuses on the roles of peasants, tribal communities, and the working classes, who were often ignored in traditional political histories. This perspective seeks to recover the agency and voices of those at the bottom of the social hierarchy during historical transformations.

**19.** (C) Literary sources are always factually accurate and can be used without critical evaluation.
While literature provides deep insights into the social and cultural values of a specific era, it cannot be accepted as factually accurate without critical scrutiny. Creative writers often use metaphors, hyperbole, and artistic license to convey their messages. Therefore, while literature is a valuable source for historical context, historians must verify its claims against other types of empirical evidence.

**20.** (D) 1, 2, 3, 4
Modern Indian historiography progressed through several influential thinkers. Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar pioneered scientific research in the late nineteenth century. He was followed by Kashi Prasad Jaiswal, who explored ancient polity in the early twentieth century. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar became a central figure in the mid-twentieth century, while Satishchandra Mittal represents a later phase of historical writing, focusing on nationalist perspectives.

**21.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Imperialistic historiography frequently portrayed pre-colonial India as a stagnant society ruled by despotic leaders. This narrative was often used to justify British colonial expansion as a civilizing mission that brought order and progress. By depicting India as incapable of self-governance, imperialist writers provided an intellectual foundation for the continuation of British rule, presenting it as a benevolent force.

**22.** (B) The tradition of bardic storytellers who preserved genealogies and historical anecdotes.
The Suta tradition refers to a very early form of historical preservation in ancient India involving bardic storytellers. These individuals were responsible for memorizing and reciting genealogies, heroic tales, and significant anecdotes about kings and dynasties. This oral tradition played a crucial role in maintaining collective memory before these records were eventually compiled into written texts like the various Puranas.

**23.** (D) Yadunath Sarkar
Yadunath Sarkar was a renowned modern Indian historian who specialized in the Mughal period, particularly the reign of Aurangzeb. He is known for his extensive use of primary sources in Persian and his dedication to rigorous archival research. Unlike ancient or European historians, Sarkar's work represents a significant milestone in the development of modern Indian academic historiography and scholarship.

**24.** (A) The role of methodology and objectivity versus narrative and interpretation.
The debate over whether history is a science or an art focuses on the tension between different methodologies. Those viewing it as a science emphasize the importance of empirical evidence, critical analysis, and objective truth. Those viewing it as an art highlight the necessity of narrative construction, subjective interpretation, and the use of imagination to present the past meaningfully.

**25.** (C) Skepticism towards grand theories and a focus on deconstruction.
Post-modernist historiography is defined by its deep skepticism toward grand narratives and universal theories of progress. This approach argues that historical truth is not fixed but is constructed through language and discourse. Post-modernists focus on deconstructing texts to reveal underlying biases and power structures, maintaining that all historical accounts are subjective interpretations rather than mirrors of reality.

**26.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Different historical works represent various traditions and periods. Kalhana's Rajatarangini offers a regional history of Kashmir, while Abul Fazl's Akbarnama chronicles the Mughal administration. Banabhatta's Harshacharita serves as a classic biography of King Harsha, and Ziauddin Barani's Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi records the history of the Delhi Sultanate. These texts are essential primary sources for understanding the past.

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**27.** (D) The complete social structure of the society.
The study of coinage, or numismatics, is a vital tool for historians. It provides specific details about economic stability, the territorial reach of a ruler, and the religious iconography of the time. However, coins alone cannot provide a comprehensive picture of the entire social structure, which involves complex relationships and daily interactions that usually require literary or archaeological context.

**28.** (B) The way historical information is altered through sources and accounts.
Evidence and its transmission refers to the process by which information about the past is passed through various intermediaries and sources. This concept emphasizes that historical data is rarely direct and can be altered, misinterpreted, or biased as it is recorded and preserved over time. Understanding this transmission is crucial for historians to critically evaluate the reliability of sources.

**29.** (C) A historian strives for a fair, evidence-supported, balanced account.
Historical objectivity involves a commitment to presenting a fair and balanced account based on the critical analysis of evidence. A historian must strive to minimize personal bias and avoid manipulating data to fit a preconceived narrative. While perfect neutrality may be impossible, the goal is to produce a credible interpretation that remains honest to the available sources and evidence.

**30.** (D) The evolution of abstract concepts like liberty or justice.
A historian specializing in the history of ideas focuses on the origin and development of abstract concepts such as liberty, justice, or democracy. This field examines how these thoughts evolved through different cultural and political contexts. Unlike political history, which tracks events, the history of ideas explores the intellectual frameworks that have shaped human societies and influenced their actions.

**31.** (B) 2 and 3 only
The Buddhist and Jain traditions significantly enriched Indian historiography by providing perspectives outside the Brahmanical framework. While these traditions often integrated religious doctrines into their narratives, they preserved valuable information through hagiographies, chronicles, and records of monastic lineages. These texts offer important insights into social conditions, urban life, and the patronage received by these religions in ancient India.

**32.** (B) Scholarly study of India's classical languages and ancient texts.
The Orientalist approach is characterized by the scholarly investigation of Eastern cultures and languages by Western researchers. In the Indian context, this involved the systematic study and translation of classical Sanskrit texts and ancient literature. While some Orientalists had romanticized views, their primary contribution was uncovering the depth of India's literary and philosophical heritage through rigorous philological and historical research.

**33.** (B) Dharmanand Kosambi - Exclusively focused on modern Indian political history.
Dharmanand Kosambi was a versatile scholar whose contributions spanned multiple fields, including the study of ancient Indian social formations and Buddhist literature. It is incorrect to say he focused exclusively on modern political history. Instead, he is known for applying a critical and interdisciplinary lens to ancient texts, providing a more nuanced understanding of early Indian society and formations.

**34.** (A) History progresses through class struggles based on modes of production.
The doctrine of historical materialism argues that the primary force driving human history is the conflict between social classes over the modes of production. It suggests that changes in the economic base of society lead to transformations in the social, political, and intellectual superstructure. From this perspective, history is a progressive development shaped by material needs and economic struggles.

**35.** (C) A chronicle favoring the faith of the writer.
Religious bias in historical writing occurs when a researcher's personal faith influences their interpretation of events. This is most frequently seen in chronicles or narratives that aim to demonstrate the superiority of one religion over others. Such works may emphasize divine intervention or present a one-sided view of

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history that aligns with the writer's religious beliefs rather than neutrality.

**36.** (D) History of constitution
The history of the constitution is a specific branch of historical study that investigates the development of legal frameworks and systems of governance. It focuses on how laws, rights, and political structures have evolved over time to shape the relationship between the state and its citizens. This field provides essential context for understanding the legal foundations of modern political systems.

**37.** (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Banabhatta's Harshacharita is a landmark work in the Charit tradition of ancient India. While it provides valuable historical details about the reign of King Harsha, it is not a purely objective account. As a court poet, Banabhatta utilized a highly stylized and laudatory tone to praise his patron. Therefore, while it is a significant source, it requires critical evaluation.

**38.** (B) Imperialistic
The Imperialistic approach to history focuses on the perspectives of colonial powers. It often involves analyzing historical events through lenses that justify foreign domination and emphasize the civilizing role of the colonizer. This school of thought typically highlights the administrative achievements of the colonial state while portraying the indigenous society as disorganized or in need of external guidance and control.

**39.** (D) Sociology provides a framework for analyzing social structures.
The correlation between history and sociology is highly beneficial as it allows researchers to apply social theories to past societies. Sociology provides a theoretical framework for analyzing complex social structures, institutions, and class relationships. By using these tools, historians can better understand the underlying patterns of social change and the dynamics of community life that purely chronological accounts might overlook.

**40.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The selection of data is an essential phase in historical research because the sheer volume of available information can be overwhelming. A historian must use professional judgment to identify the most relevant and reliable evidence for their specific research question. Including every minor detail is neither practical nor helpful for creating a clear narrative that effectively explains historical processes.

**41.** (C) Early Delhi Sultanate (Ghurids and Mamluks)
Minhaj-us-siraj was a prominent historian of the thirteenth century whose work, the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, is a vital source for the early Delhi Sultanate. He chronicled the rise of the Ghurid dynasty and the subsequent establishment of the Mamluk or Slave dynasty in India. His narrative provides detailed political information about the expansion of Islamic rule and the various rulers.

**42.** (A) Intellectual history focuses on thinkers in context, ideas traces concepts.
Although closely related, intellectual history and the history of ideas have distinct focuses. Intellectual history examines the thoughts and beliefs of individuals within their specific social and cultural contexts. In contrast, the history of ideas tracks the long-term evolution and transformation of specific abstract concepts through different time periods. While one emphasizes the thinker, the other focuses on concepts.

**43.** (D) The problem of selecting specific facts from a vast sea of data.
One of the most significant challenges to historical objectivity is the process of data selection. Since historians cannot include every single fact from the past, they must choose which information is relevant. This selection process is inevitably influenced by the researcher's own perspective and research goals, making it difficult to avoid some level of subjective influence in the narrative.

**44.** (B) The perspective of the colonial administration
A historian relying primarily on official British records and the letters of colonial soldiers to study the 1857 Revolt will likely produce a biased account. This perspective tends to reflect the

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views and concerns of the colonial administration rather than those of the Indian participants. Such a reliance on one-sided sources can obscure the motivations and experiences of the colonized.

**45.** (C) 2, 1, 4, 3
Indian historiography has evolved through several distinct traditions. The Puranic tradition, with its focus on genealogies, emerged very early. This was followed by the Charit tradition, which produced royal biographies like the Harshacharita in the ancient period. Later, Sultanate-era Persian historiography introduced new styles in the medieval period. Finally, modern scientific historiography developed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**46.** (D) The rigorous, evidence-based methodology of historical inquiry.
The famous dictum that history is a science emphasizes the importance of a rigorous, evidence-based methodology. It suggests that historical inquiry should follow systematic rules for evaluating sources and establishing facts, similar to the objectivity sought in the natural sciences. This perspective rejects the idea that history is merely creative storytelling, insisting instead on a disciplined approach to research.

**47.** (A) Contemporary social values may unconsciously shape the historian's view.
A historian's social environment refers to the cultural values, beliefs, and norms of the society in which they live. These external factors can unconsciously influence their perspective on the past, leading them to prioritize certain themes or project contemporary attitudes onto historical figures. Recognizing this influence is crucial for historians to better understand the potential biases that color their interpretations.

**48.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Different schools of history have distinct core focuses. The Nationalist approach highlights resistance to colonial rule. The Marxist approach analyzes history through class struggle and economic modes of production. The Subaltern school emphasizes the history of common people. Meanwhile, the Imperialist approach centers on justifying colonial administration. These diverse perspectives shape how different historians interpret the forces driving social change.

**49.** (B) A book titled "The Economic Policies of the Delhi Sultanate" written by a modern historian.
A secondary source is a work that analyzes and interprets primary materials created after the time period being studied. A modern historical book examining the economic policies of the Delhi Sultanate is a perfect example, as it synthesizes earlier records. Coins, inscriptions, and original diaries are primary sources because they are direct products of the past time period under study.

**50.** (A) Marxist
Dharmanand Kosambi made a profound impact on Indian historiography by introducing a Marxist framework to the study of the ancient past. He moved away from purely political analysis, focusing instead on the relationship between social formations and economic modes of production. His interdisciplinary approach integrated archaeology and ethnology to provide a more holistic understanding of how early Indian societies developed.

**51.** (B) 1 and 3 only
History can be studied at various geographic scales. World history adopts a global perspective, examining the connections and comparisons between different civilizations. Regional history focuses on the past of specific areas within a larger nation, providing localized insights. National history explores the development of a people as a whole, ideally including social and economic aspects alongside political leadership.

**52.** (B) History involves speculating about the meaning and patterns of the past.
Viewing history as a philosophy involves looking beyond a mere collection of facts to discover underlying patterns and meanings. This approach seeks to understand the broader significance of human actions and whether there are universal laws or purposes driving the historical process. It encourages historians to speculate on the deeper philosophical questions raised by the trajectory of human development.

**53.** (C) History and Geography
The correlation between history and geography highlights how physical environments shape human development. Factors such as climate, river systems, and terrain significantly influence

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where civilizations flourish, their agricultural practices, and their trade routes. A historian focusing on these elements recognizes that the story of humanity is inextricably linked to the physical world and the resources it provides over time.

**54.** (D) Distort the past to align with the ideology of their preferred political party or system.
Political loyalty as a cause of bias occurs when a historian's allegiance to a particular party or nation influences their writing. This can lead to the distortion of facts to support a specific political agenda or the uncritical praise of certain leaders. Such bias compromises the academic integrity of history by prioritizing contemporary political goals over an impartial search for truth.

**55.** (C) Nationalist
Kashi Prasad Jaiswal was a prominent figure in the Nationalist school of historiography. His influential work on ancient Indian polity challenged colonial claims that India had no tradition of self-governance. By arguing for the existence of ancient Hindu republics and democratic institutions, Jaiswal sought to provide a historical foundation for Indian nationalism and counter the narrative of perpetual oriental despotism.

**56.** (C) A is true but R is false.
Archaeology is an essential supplementary discipline, particularly for ancient periods where written records are scarce. While it provides direct material evidence such as tools and ruins, this evidence is not completely unmediated. Archaeologists must still interpret their findings, and these interpretations can be subject to bias. Thus, material remains offer factual data that still requires critical analysis and interpretation.

**57.** (B) A manifestation of a divine plan or will.
The religious approach to history often interprets past events as the manifestation of a divine plan. From this perspective, historical change is not merely the result of human agency or economic forces but is guided by a higher spiritual purpose. This viewpoint often structures the narrative around religious milestones and views the successes of societies as reflecting divine favor.

**58.** (D) A strict adherence to modern standards of objectivity and evidence.
The Vedic and Puranic traditions are characterized by a cyclical view of time and the preservation of genealogies through royal lineages. These traditions often blend mythological elements with historical memories. However, they do not adhere to modern academic standards of objectivity and evidence, as their primary purpose was often religious or social rather than a critical investigation of history.

**59.** (D) Being the chief editor of the multi-volume "History and Culture of the Indian People".
R.C. Majumdar was a towering figure in Indian historiography, primarily known for his role as the chief editor of the multi-volume series, The History and Culture of the Indian People. This monumental project aimed to provide a comprehensive and nationalist account of India's past. His work was instrumental in documenting the long trajectory of Indian civilization through various periods.

**60.** (B) Selection and formulation of a research problem.
The historical research process begins with the identification and formulation of a specific research problem or question. This initial step defines the scope of the study and guides the subsequent collection and analysis of sources. Without a clear question, the researcher would have no criteria for selecting relevant data or constructing a focused narrative that contributes to historical knowledge.

**61.** (C) Ain-i-Akbari
Abul Fazl was a key advisor and historian for Emperor Akbar, and his most significant work is the Akbarnama. A crucial part of this larger chronicle is the Ain-i-Akbari, which provides a detailed administrative and statistical record of the Mughal Empire. This work is a primary source of immense value for understanding the political and economic structure of that era.

**62.** (B) The history of trade guilds, land revenue systems, and technology.
Economic history focuses on the material basis of past societies. It includes the study of land revenue systems, trade patterns, guild organizations, and technological developments. By examining how

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goods were produced, distributed, and consumed, economic historians provide insights into the social structures and power dynamics that were shaped by the material conditions of different eras in the past.

**63.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Post-modernism fundamentally questions the possibility of achieving a single, objective truth about the past. It suggests that historical accounts are linguistic constructs, or texts, created by historians rather than direct representations of reality. By focusing on how language shapes our understanding, post-modernists emphasize that every historical narrative is influenced by the context and perspective of its author.

**64.** (D) Establish the credibility and academic rigor of history as a discipline.
The pursuit of objectivity is essential for establishing the credibility and academic rigor of history as a professional discipline. By following systematic methods and relying on evidence, historians distinguish their work from mere fiction or propaganda. Objectivity ensures that historical accounts are reliable and can be used as a basis for further research, debate, and understanding.

**65.** (C) Narrative structure and literary style
Historians who argue that history is an art emphasize the importance of narrative structure and literary style. They believe that facts alone do not constitute history; they must be woven into a compelling and coherent story. This perspective highlights the role of the historian's imagination and creative synthesis in making the past accessible and meaningful to a wider audience.

**66.** (B) 2 and 3 only
While primary sources are original materials from a specific time, they are not always more reliable than secondary sources, as they can contain biases. Secondary sources are valuable for understanding how different historians have interpreted a topic over time. An autobiography is considered a primary source because it is a direct account written by a participant in events.

**67.** (D) The linear concept of history, which sees history as progressing in a line.
The cyclical concept of history views time as a repeating series of patterns, where civilizations rise and fall in cycles. This perspective directly opposes the linear concept of history, which sees time as a continuous progression toward a future goal or state. While one emphasizes repetition, the other emphasizes constant change and progress along a forward-moving path.

**68.** (A) The history of Indian art and aesthetics
Anand K. Coomaraswamy was a pioneering scholar who made significant contributions to the study of Indian art and aesthetics. His work focused on the philosophical and cultural foundations of traditional Indian art, arguing for its unique value and spiritual depth. By exploring these themes, he provided a historical context for understanding the evolution of artistic expression in India.

**69.** (C) Kalhana - Rajatarangini
Several historical works are correctly associated with their authors. Kalhana is famous for writing the Rajatarangini, a detailed chronicle of the kings of Kashmir. Abul Fazl authored the Akbarnama, Ziauddin Barani wrote the Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi, and Banabhatta wrote the Harshacharita. These pairings are fundamental for identifying the primary sources that document different periods and regions of Indian history.

**70.** (D) Social history
Social history examines the everyday lives of people, focusing on structures like family, marriage, and community. It explores the roles of women and marginalized groups, looking beyond the political actions of elites to understand how society functioned as a whole. This field provides a more inclusive view of the past by analyzing the social dynamics that shaped human experience.

**71.** (D) It was a conscious attempt at writing a connected regional history.
Kalhana's Rajatarangini is highly regarded in Indian historiography because it represents a conscious and sophisticated attempt to write a connected regional history. Written in the twelfth century, it covers the dynasties of Kashmir with a modern sense of causality and a critical approach to sources. It stands as a rare example of a

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systematic historical narrative from pre-modern India.

**72.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Different branches of history study various aspects of the human experience. Social history focuses on structures like class and family. Economic history investigates trade, agriculture, and industry. Political history examines statecraft, wars, and governance. Intellectual history traces the evolution of philosophical and scientific ideas. Together, these fields provide a comprehensive and multifaceted understanding of how societies have developed over time.

**73.** (D) Historical objectivity.
Historical objectivity requires a researcher to consider all available evidence, even if it contradicts their own thesis. Deliberately omitting facts that do not support an argument is a major failure of professional ethics and compromises the integrity of the work. A credible historical account must engage with conflicting data to provide a balanced and honest interpretation of the past.

**74.** (D) Tendency towards eulogy and exaggeration in favor of the patron king.
The Charit tradition, exemplified by works like Banabhatta's Harshacharita, is often criticized for its tendency toward eulogy and exaggeration. Since these biographies were written by court poets for their patrons, they frequently focus on praising the ruler's virtues while downplaying failures. This laudatory style means that historians must use these sources with careful critical analysis and skepticism.

**75.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Nationalist historians in India played a vital role in building a sense of national identity. By highlighting achievements in science, philosophy, and governance, they provided a powerful counter-narrative to imperialist claims of Indian inferiority. This focus on past glory was intended to foster pride and unity among Indians, serving as an intellectual foundation for the struggle for independence.

**76.** (B) Identifying, gathering, and critically evaluating sources for reliability.
The process of data collection and selection in historical research is a critical and systematic task. It involves identifying all potential sources and then carefully evaluating them for reliability, authenticity, and relevance. A historian does not simply accept all information as valid; they must use critical analysis to choose the most trustworthy evidence to support their historical narrative and claims.

**77.** (D) The recitation of genealogies and heroic deeds by bards in royal courts.
The Suta tradition is a classic example of oral historical preservation in ancient India. It involved bards who recited genealogies, heroic deeds, and historical anecdotes in royal courts. This tradition served as an important precursor to written records, as these oral accounts were eventually integrated into the Puranas and other historical texts, helping to preserve the memory of dynasties.

**78.** (A) The history of beliefs, values, artistic expressions, and popular customs of a society.
Cultural history investigates the shared beliefs, values, and artistic expressions that define a society. It looks at popular customs, religious practices, and the everyday meanings that people give to their lives. By focusing on these non-political aspects, cultural history provides a deeper understanding of the collective mindset and social fabric of different communities throughout various periods of the past.

**79.** (D) Emphasized a critical and analytical approach to sources, moving away from traditional narrative.
Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar is considered a pioneer of modern history because he introduced a critical and analytical approach to Indian historiography. He moved away from traditional storytelling, emphasizing instead the rigorous evaluation of sources and the use of linguistic evidence. His commitment to scientific methods helped establish history as a disciplined academic field in India during the nineteenth century.

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**80.** (C) The conflict between social classes arising from the economic base of society.
According to the Marxist approach, the fundamental driver of historical change is the conflict between social classes. This conflict arises from the economic base of society, specifically the relationship between the people and the means of production. This perspective views history as a series of transformations where shifts in the economic structure lead to changes in the social system.

**81.** (A) It highlights how the content of a source can be altered over time.
The concept of evidence and its transmission is central to historiography because it acknowledges that information can be changed as it is passed through different sources. A primary account may be modified by later chroniclers, or meanings may shift through translation. Historians must understand this process to critically evaluate how much the original message has been altered over time.

**82.** (D) Bias can be completely eliminated if a historian is properly trained.
Bias is an inherent challenge in historical writing and can stem from a researcher's religious beliefs, political loyalties, or social environment. While professional training helps historians recognize and minimize these influences, it is incorrect to say that bias can be completely eliminated. Every historian writes from a specific perspective, making absolute neutrality an unattainable, though still important, academic ideal.

**83.** (A) 2, 4, 1, 3
Several key authors represent different periods of Indian historical writing. Banabhatta wrote during the ancient period, followed by Kalhana in the twelfth century. Abul Fazl was a central figure in the medieval Mughal era. Finally, Yadunath Sarkar represents the modern period of academic historiography. Arranging these authors chronologically helps track the evolution of historical methods and narrative styles.

**84.** (A) The rise and fall of empires, the nature of states, and foreign policy.
The correlation between history and politics is most evident when researchers study the nature of the state, the rise and fall of empires, and foreign policy. This field examines how power is acquired, maintained, and exercised across different societies. By analyzing political structures and leadership, historians provide essential insights into the governance and institutional evolution of human societies.

**85.** (C) The study of how history has been written, the history of historical writing.
Historiography is the study of how history has been written over time. It examines the different methods, perspectives, and schools of thought that have shaped our understanding of the past. By analyzing the history of historical writing, researchers can better understand the biases and contexts of earlier historians, helping to create a more critical and self-aware discipline of history.

**86.** (B) 2 and 3 only
The Subaltern Studies group fundamentally challenged the elitist bias found in both colonial and nationalist historiographies. Instead of focusing on kings and political leaders, this approach seeks to recover the history and agency of marginalized, non-elite groups. By highlighting the roles of peasants and the working class, these scholars aim to provide a more inclusive and representative account.

**87.** (D) Yadunath Sarkar
Yadunath Sarkar is widely regarded as the preeminent historian of the Mughal Empire, particularly for his monumental, multi-volume work on the life and reign of Emperor Aurangzeb. His research was characterized by a meticulous use of Persian sources and a commitment to archival accuracy. Sarkar's detailed narratives provided a comprehensive look at the political and military history of the era.

**88.** (A) A combination of religious, economic, and world history.
Studying the spread of Buddhism along the Silk Road involves multiple historical dimensions. It requires an understanding of religious ideas, the economic impact of long-distance trade, and the global connections between different societies. This type of research demonstrates how these fields often overlap, as the movement of people and ideas is inextricably linked to commercial and political networks.

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**89.** (D) Modern history emphasizes critical evaluation of evidence, absent in Puranics.
A fundamental difference between Puranic traditions and modern history writing is the emphasis on critical evidence. While Puranic texts preserve valuable genealogies, they often blend mythology with historical memory without a critical framework. Modern historiography, however, is based on the systematic evaluation of diverse sources and a commitment to verifying facts, a method largely absent in the earlier indigenous tradition.

**90.** (A) An unattainable ideal that historians should nonetheless strive for.
Historical objectivity is best understood as an unattainable ideal that historians must still strive to achieve. It involves a constant effort to be fair, transparent, and evidence-based, while acknowledging that complete neutrality is impossible due to the historian's own context. By pursuing this ideal, researchers ensure that their work remains credible and open to critical academic debate and scrutiny.

**91.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The correlation between history and archaeology is exceptionally strong for ancient periods where written records are often missing or fragmented. In such cases, material remains like pottery, ruins, and tools become the primary evidence for reconstructing past societies. Archaeology provides tangible proof of human activity, helping historians build a more complete and factual account of early civilizations.

**92.** (C) Post-modernist
Post-modernist historiography challenges the idea that history can represent an objective reality. It views historical writing as a form of literature, where the historian constructs a narrative rather than discovering a pre-existing truth. By treating historical accounts as texts, this approach emphasizes the role of language and interpretation, questioning the boundary between factual reporting and creative storytelling.

**93.** (D) Minhaj-us-siraj
Minhaj-us-siraj was an important historian of the thirteenth century whose primary work, the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, offers a comprehensive history of the Islamic world up to 1260. This text is especially valuable for its detailed account of the early Delhi Sultanate and the Mongol invasions. It provides crucial information on the political and military developments of the medieval Islamic world.

**94.** (B) To study the history of a specific, geographically defined area.
Regional history focuses on the study of a specific, geographically defined area within a larger country or civilization. This approach allows for a more detailed investigation of local social structures, economic patterns, and cultural traditions that might be overlooked in a broad national narrative. By providing a localized perspective, regional history enriches our understanding of the diversity within the past.

**95.** (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Several prominent historians are associated with specific ideas or monumental works. Kashi Prasad Jaiswal is known for Hindu Polity, while D.D. Kosambi pioneered the Marxist interpretation of Indian history. Yadunath Sarkar is famous for his work on Aurangzeb, and R.C. Majumdar served as the chief editor for a major series on Indian history. These scholars represent diverse and significant contributions.

**96.** (D) Pre-modern indigenous traditions of history writing in India.
The Suta and Charit traditions represent ancient, indigenous methods of recording the past in India. The Suta tradition was primarily an oral practice of bards preserving genealogies and heroic tales. The Charit tradition involved written royal biographies, such as the Harshacharita. These pre-modern forms of historical consciousness highlight how early Indian societies maintained collective memories before modern historiography.

**97.** (D) An over-emphasis on the ruler's virtues while ignoring their failures.
A historian's gratitude toward a patron can lead to significant bias, often manifesting as an over-emphasis on the ruler's virtues while deliberately ignoring failures. Since the writer's livelihood or status may depend on the patron's favor, their account may become more of a eulogy than a

NQDIA

critical history. This compromises the objectivity and balance of the historical work.

**98.** (B) It suggests history involves a systematic process of inquiry and evidence gathering.
The argument that history is a science suggests that it involves a systematic process of inquiry and rigorous evidence gathering. This perspective emphasizes the use of disciplined methods for evaluating sources and establishing facts, similar to the objectivity sought in other scientific fields. It highlights that history is a professional pursuit based on research rather than creative storytelling.

**99.** (D) Inquiry and investigation
The etymology of the word history traces back to the Greek term historia, which originally meant inquiry or investigation. This origin emphasizes that the discipline is fundamentally built on the active process of searching for knowledge and questioning the past. It signifies that history is a research-based endeavor rather than one based on divine revelation or poetic imagination.

**100.** (A) Cultural history
A study exploring how perceptions of beauty and fashion changed in eighteenth-century France is a clear example of cultural history. This field investigates the shifting values, meanings, and social customs that define a specific era. By analyzing non-political themes like aesthetics, cultural history provides a richer understanding of the collective mindset and everyday life of people in the past.

**101.** (D) A focus on the glory of India's pre-colonial past.
The Imperialistic approach to Indian history often utilized the concept of the 'White Man's Burden' and portrayed Indian society as stagnant to justify colonial rule. This perspective presented the British as a necessary modernizing force. However, it did not focus on the glory of India's pre-colonial past; that emphasis was a hallmark of the subsequent Nationalist school of historians.

**102.** (B) 1 and 2 only
Primary sources are original materials contemporary to the event under study. A newspaper article written on the day an event occurs is a primary source because it provides a first-hand report. However, a biography written a century later is a secondary source, as it interprets and synthesizes information from earlier records rather than being a direct product of the event.

**103.** (A) Seeks to provide a single, overarching framework to explain history.
The doctrine of historical materialism is considered a grand theory because it provides an overarching framework to explain the entire course of human history. It suggests that economic structures and class struggles are the fundamental forces driving change across all societies. By offering a universal explanation for historical development, it seeks to unify diverse events under a theoretical umbrella.

**104.** (D) Kalhana
Kalhana is celebrated for his twelfth-century work, the Rajatarangini, which provides a detailed and relatively systematic history of ancient Kashmir. This text is unique in early Indian literature for its critical approach to sources and its attempt to establish a clear chronological narrative of regional dynasties. It remains an invaluable primary source for understanding the regional history of Northern India.

**105.** (D) The historian's inability to detach from their own context.
The problem of objectivity in history refers to the challenge historians face in detaching themselves from their own personal and cultural contexts. Since every researcher has their own values, biases, and contemporary perspectives, these factors can unconsciously influence their selection and interpretation of data. This inherent subjectivity means that achieving a completely neutral and detached account of the past is exceptionally difficult.

**106.** (A) 1, 2, 4, 3
Indian historiography has seen several schools of thought emerge in a general chronological order. The Imperialistic approach came first, followed by the Nationalist response. Later, the Marxist approach introduced class analysis, and more recently, the Subaltern school emerged to focus on marginalized groups. This progression reflects the changing political and intellectual climates that have shaped how India's past is interpreted and recorded.

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**107.** (C) History and Archaeology - Study of future societal trends.
History is closely correlated with several disciplines, such as geography for spatial context and archaeology for material remains. However, archaeology focuses on recovering and analyzing past physical evidence, not on studying future societal trends. The systematic study of future trends is known as futurology, which is a separate field from both history and archaeology within the social sciences.

**108.** (A) Create a sense of national pride and counter colonial narratives of Indian inferiority.
The primary goal of the Nationalist school of Indian historiography was to build a sense of national pride and counter colonial narratives. Imperialist writers often portrayed India as inferior or incapable of self-rule. Nationalist historians responded by highlighting India's ancient cultural and political achievements, providing an intellectual foundation for the growing movement for independence and national unity across the country.

**109.** (C) A is true but R is false.
Ziauddin Barani was a major historian of the Delhi Sultanate, and his works are essential primary sources for that period. Although he advised future historians to remain truthful and impartial, his own writings were often influenced by his personal opinions and political biases. Therefore, while his accounts are valuable, they must be used with critical awareness of his specific perspective.

**110.** (A) History of ideas
The history of ideas is the specific branch of history that explores the origin, evolution, and impact of abstract concepts over time. It investigates how thoughts like freedom, justice, or power have been understood and transformed across different cultures and eras. This field provides context for the intellectual developments that have fundamentally shaped human actions and societal structures throughout history.

**111.** (A) The patterns, meanings, and underlying principles of the human past.
When history is viewed as a philosophy, it seeks to uncover the underlying meanings and overarching patterns of the human past. This approach looks beyond a simple record of events to explore whether there are universal laws or a purpose driving historical change. It encourages a deeper reflection on the human condition and the long-term significance of past human actions and experiences.

**112.** (A) The potential for distortion as information is passed through intermediaries.
The concept of evidence and its transmission serves as a warning that information can be distorted as it passes through various sources over time. A historian must be aware that every person who records or translates an event adds their own layer of interpretation or error. Critical analysis is therefore necessary to peel back these layers and find the most reliable information.

NODIA

**113.** (B) A more scientific and critical methodology in Indian historiography.
Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar's scholarship marked a significant shift toward a scientific and critical methodology in Indian historiography. He emphasized the rigorous analysis of original sources and moved away from uncritical traditional narratives. By applying disciplined research techniques to ancient texts and inscriptions, Bhandarkar helped establish higher academic standards for the study of India's past during the late nineteenth century.

**114.** (D) The linear-progressive view of history.
The cyclical concept of history views time as a series of repeating patterns, where civilizations go through stages of growth and decay. This is in sharp contrast to the linear-progressive view, which sees history moving forward in a straight line toward a better future. While one emphasizes repetition, the other focuses on continuous improvement and the unique trajectory of time.

**115.** (C) The need to please a patron
A historian using court chronicles and official eulogies to write a biography must be highly aware of the potential for bias due to patronage. Since these documents were often created to please a ruler or justify their power, they frequently emphasize positive qualities and achievements while ignoring mistakes. Critical evaluation is necessary to separate historical facts from laudatory exaggerations.

**116.** (B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
Different historical traditions in India have unique characteristics. The Suta tradition involved professional bards, while the Puranic tradition is known for its detailed genealogies or vamshanucharita. The Charit tradition focuses on royal biographies like the Harshacharita. Kalhana's work stands out as a critical historical narrative of a specific region. These diverse forms show the evolution of historical memory across different eras.

**117.** (C) Peasants, tribals, and other non-elite, marginalized sections of society.
The Subaltern approach focuses on the experiences and agency of the non-elite and marginalized sections of society, such as peasants and tribal communities. This perspective critiques traditional historiography for focusing too much on kings and political leaders. By writing history from below, subaltern scholars aim to uncover the roles that ordinary people played in significant social and political changes.

**118.** (B) The scope of history has expanded to include almost every aspect of life.
The scope of history has expanded significantly over time to include almost every aspect of human life. While it was once primarily focused on politics and major wars, it now encompasses social structures, economic systems, cultural values, and intellectual developments. This holistic approach allows for a much more comprehensive understanding of how entire societies have evolved throughout the human past.

**119.** (C) Emphasis on deconstructing historical narratives.
A defining feature of post-modernist historiography is its emphasis on deconstructing existing historical narratives. Post-modernists believe that history is not an objective representation of the past but is instead constructed through language and discourse. By analyzing how these narratives are built, they aim to reveal the hidden biases and power structures that shape our understanding of historical truth and interpretation.

**120.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Dharmanand Kosambi was a multifaceted scholar who applied a Marxist framework to the study of ancient Indian history. His work focused on the dynamic interaction between social formations and economic modes of production. By integrating diverse fields like mathematics and ethnology, he provided a pioneering interdisciplinary analysis that moved beyond traditional political narratives to explore the deeper material basis of society.

**121.** (B) Interdependent, as history provides the data and sociology providing the tools.
The relationship between history and sociology is interdependent and fruitful. History provides sociology with the essential data and case studies from the past, while sociology offers theoretical tools and frameworks for analyzing social structures and processes. Together, these disciplines help researchers understand how societies change over time and the underlying patterns that govern human community life and interactions.

**122.** (C) Kashi Prasad Jaiswal
Kashi Prasad Jaiswal authored the influential work Hindu Polity, which was a significant contribution to the Nationalist school of historiography. In this book, he challenged colonial stereotypes by arguing that ancient India had strong traditions of democratic and republican governance. His work was intended to show that India was not always a land of despots, providing historical legitimacy for Indian national identity.

**123.** (B) A systematic investigation based on the analysis of sources.
Research in history is defined as a systematic investigation that uses the critical analysis of diverse sources to establish facts and theories. It goes beyond simply reading existing books; it involves questioning evidence, comparing different accounts, and constructing a reasoned narrative based on those findings. This disciplined process is essential for building a reliable and academic understanding of the past.

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**124.** (C) The historical development of a people or state constituting a nation.
A national history focuses on the historical development of a people or state that constitutes a nation. It explores the shared experiences, institutions, and events that have shaped a collective national identity over time. While it may include regional or local details, the primary focus is on the unified story of the nation as a whole, providing a sense of continuity.

**125.** (C) A is true but R is false.
Orientalist scholars of the late eighteenth century made significant contributions by translating ancient Indian texts, uncovering a wealth of historical and philosophical knowledge. However, their motives were not purely detached; their work was often closely linked to the administrative needs of the British East India Company. Understanding Indian culture and law was essential for effectively governing and controlling the colonial territories.

**126.** (C) Primary source
A primary source is an original document or material created by someone who was a direct participant in or a contemporary observer of a historical event. These sources, such as diaries, letters, or official reports from the time, provide first-hand evidence for historians. They are the essential building blocks for any authentic research, offering a direct link to the human experience.

**127.** (B) A prejudice that affects a historian's interpretation of the past.
Bias in history is defined as a prejudice or partiality that influences a historian's selection and interpretation of the past. It can stem from personal beliefs, political loyalties, or the social environment of the researcher. Recognizing bias is a fundamental part of historiography, as it helps readers understand how the historian's perspective might have shaped the final historical narrative and interpretation.

**128.** (B) Offer perspectives on history from non-Brahmanical viewpoints.
The Buddhist and Jain traditions of history writing are crucial because they offer alternative perspectives to the Brahmanical worldview in ancient India. These traditions preserved information through chronicles and hagiographies that focus on non-Brahmanical religious developments and social conditions. Their records provide important insights into the diversity of religious thought and the complex social dynamics of the early period.

**129.** (B) Comprehensive scope covering political and social aspects.
Abul Fazl's Akbarnama is notable for its comprehensive and detailed approach, covering political, social, and administrative aspects of Emperor Akbar's reign. It moved beyond a simple narrative of battles to provide a vast statistical and descriptive record of the Mughal state. While it was a court history written for a patron, its sheer depth makes it an invaluable source for Mughal.

**130.** (C) Uncritically praises the actions of a particular political party, ideology, or nation-state they support.
Political loyalty as a cause of bias is evident when a historian produces an account that uncritically praises a specific party, nation, or ideology they support. This can result in the manipulation of facts to align with a political agenda, compromising the pursuit of an impartial and balanced narrative. Such works often serve as propaganda rather than objective historical analysis.

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**131.** (B) Scale and focus
The primary difference between regional and national history lies in their scale and focus. Regional history examines the past of a specific, localized area, providing detailed insights into its unique social and economic conditions. National history, meanwhile, explores the broader development of an entire nation-state. Both approaches use similar methodologies but differ in the geographic and conceptual breadth of their analysis.

**132.** (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Those who argue that history is an art emphasize the historian's role as a storyteller who must craft a coherent narrative through the selection and arrangement of facts. This does not mean the scientific approach is dismissed; rather, it highlights that presenting historical truth requires more than just listing data. It involves

interpretation and skill to make the past meaningful.

**133.** (A) Not all material will be relevant or authentic for the research.
After the initial collection of data, a historian must undergo a selection process because not all gathered information is relevant or reliable. The researcher must critically evaluate each source to determine its authenticity and its importance to the specific research question. This ensures that the final historical narrative is built upon the most trustworthy and significant evidence available for the study.

**134.** (D) A nationalist perspective, often challenging secularist and Marxist interpretations of Indian history.
Professor Satishchandra Mittal is associated with a nationalist perspective in historiography. His work often challenges the established secularist and Marxist interpretations of Indian history, arguing instead for a viewpoint that emphasizes indigenous cultural and national values. This approach reflects a broader trend in modern Indian writing that seeks to re-evaluate traditional narratives through a different ideological lens during historical research.

**135.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Pre-modern Indian historical traditions were rich and varied. The Vedic tradition embedded historical memory within religious texts, while the Puranas recorded long genealogical lists of dynasties. The Suta tradition relied on bards to orally preserve and transmit memories of past rulers and their deeds. Together, these diverse forms demonstrate that a sense of historical consciousness existed long before modern historiography.

**136.** (C) Intellectual history and the history of technology
A study on how the printing press facilitated the spread of Protestant Reformation ideas involves both intellectual history and the history of technology. It explores the development of religious and philosophical thoughts alongside the technological innovations that allowed those ideas to reach a mass audience. This interdisciplinary approach shows how material changes can fundamentally influence the trajectory of human thought and social change.

**137.** (C) Use of archaeological evidence
Bias in history can be introduced through factors like the historian's social environment, religious beliefs, or political loyalties. These personal and cultural influences can unconsciously shape their interpretation of events. However, the use of archaeological evidence is a scientific method for gathering facts and is not a cause of bias; instead, it provides physical data to support objective research.

**138.** (C) Banabhatta
Banabhatta was a celebrated Sanskrit writer of the seventh century who authored the Harshacharita, a biographical account of Emperor Harsha. As the court poet, he provided a detailed and laudatory narrative of the king's life and the social conditions of the period. This work is a primary example of the Charit tradition of historical writing in ancient India.

**139.** (C) The unfolding of a divine plan.
The religious approach to history often views past events as the unfolding of a divine plan. From this perspective, historical change is not merely the result of human agency or economic forces but is guided by spiritual purposes. This viewpoint structures the historical narrative around religious milestones and interprets the successes or failures of societies as manifestations of divine will.

**140.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Historical writing is never entirely free from subjectivity, as a historian's choice of subject and interpretation is influenced by their own context. This inherent subjectivity is what aligns history with the arts, as it requires personal judgment and narrative skill to construct a meaningful story from fragmented data. Recognizing this helps distinguish history from the purely empirical nature of sciences.

**141.** (B) Analyze events and processes in a global context.
World history encourages researchers to move beyond a narrow national focus and analyze historical events in a global context. This

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approach emphasizes the interconnectedness of different societies through trade, migration, and the exchange of ideas. By looking at the bigger picture, world history helps provide a more comprehensive understanding of the shared challenges and transformations that have shaped humanity globally.

**142.** (C) A grand theory based on historical materialism
The Marxist interpretation of history is a prominent example of a grand theory, as it offers an overarching framework called historical materialism. This theory suggests that economic structures and class struggles are the primary drivers of all historical change across different societies and eras. It provides a universal explanation for the progression of human civilization through various stages of development.

**143.** (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Several terms are essential for understanding historical research. A primary source is an original document like a personal letter. A secondary source is a later analysis, such as a modern research article. Historiography is the study of how history has been written, and bias refers to the personal prejudices that can influence a historian's work and interpretation of evidence over time.

**144.** (C) The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789).
For studying the French Revolution, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen is an ideal primary source. It is an original document from 1789 that directly reflects the political goals and values of the era. Modern textbooks or documentaries are secondary sources because they offer a later interpretation and synthesis of these original historical materials.

**145.** (A) Anachronism, the error of projecting modern values onto the past.
The idea that the past is a foreign country serves as a reminder to avoid anachronism, which is the mistake of projecting modern values onto historical figures. Historians must strive to understand people within their own specific time and context. Recognizing that past societies operated under different norms is essential for creating an accurate and objective historical narrative and interpretation.

**146.** (B) Demonstrate the legitimacy and benefits of British colonial rule.
The primary objective of the Imperialist school of historiography was to demonstrate the legitimacy and benefits of British colonial rule in India. By portraying pre-colonial society as disorganized or stagnant, imperialist writers framed British administration as a necessary and benevolent force for progress. This narrative served to justify and maintain colonial power through an influential intellectual and historical framework.

**147.** (B) Social History
Social history focuses on the lives of ordinary people and the structures that define their communities. A study investigating caste dynamics, kinship patterns, and social mobility during the Gupta period falls squarely within this field. It looks beyond the political actions of rulers to understand how social relationships and hierarchies functioned and changed within that specific historical and cultural context.

**148.** (B) It is a biographical work, often in a laudatory style, centered on a patron.
The Charit tradition is defined by biographical works that focus on the lives of patron rulers. These accounts, such as the Harshacharita, are often written in a laudatory style to celebrate the virtues and achievements of the king. While they provide valuable historical information, their celebratory nature requires historians to use them with critical awareness of the potential for exaggeration.

**149.** (A) Literature can be a source for social history if used critically.
The relationship between history and literature is complex because literature can serve as a rich source for understanding social and cultural history. When used critically, literary works reflect the values, anxieties, and mindsets of the people in the period they were written. While not always factually accurate, they provide a unique window into the collective consciousness of the past.

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**150.** (B) Information from sources used to support an argument.
In historical research, evidence refers to information from various sources that a historian uses to support their arguments and interpretations. This can include written documents, material remains, or oral accounts. Evidence is the essential foundation that transforms a simple story into a credible historical account, allowing researchers to ground their claims in the tangible remains of the human past.

**151.** (C) Psychoanalytic
Approaches to history such as Marxist, Subaltern, and Nationalist provide different theoretical lenses for analyzing the past. These established frameworks focus on class struggle, marginalized groups, and national identity respectively. While psychoanalysis is a method used in psychology to study the human mind, it is not considered one of the primary traditional approaches within the core discipline of academic historiography.

**152.** (B) Subaltern
The term history from below is most closely associated with the Subaltern school of thought. This approach emphasizes the historical role and agency of the common masses, who were often ignored in traditional elite-focused narratives. By looking at history through the eyes of the marginalized, subaltern scholars aim to provide a more inclusive and representative understanding of past societal changes.

**153.** (C) Religious
A historian who believes that history is guided by a divine will is adopting a religious approach. This perspective interprets past events as part of a higher spiritual plan rather than the result of purely human agency or economic forces. Such accounts often focus on religious milestones and view the rise and fall of civilizations as reflections of divine intervention.

**154.** (C) Inquiry or investigation
The word history is derived from the ancient Greek term historia, which originally meant inquiry or knowledge acquired through investigation. This etymology highlights that the discipline is fundamentally based on the process of active research and questioning. It emphasizes that understanding the past requires a systematic effort to discover truth through the critical evaluation of available evidence and information.

**155.** (A) 1 only
Kalhana's Rajatarangini is highly praised in Indian historiography for its sophisticated attempt at critical analysis and its use of diverse sources. Writing in the twelfth century, Kalhana displayed a modern sense of historical causality and a commitment to impartiality. In contrast, many other early biographies or official chronicles were more laudatory and less critically rigorous in their approach to events.

**156.** (C) A major project of Nationalist historiography
R.C. Majumdar was a prominent figure whose work, especially his editorship of the multi-volume series on Indian history, represents a major project within Nationalist historiography. This series aimed to provide a comprehensive account of India's past from an indigenous perspective, highlighting the country's cultural and political trajectory. His work was instrumental in documenting the historical identity of the nation.

**157.** (B) The objectivity and validity of the historian's argument.
The selection of data is a crucial phase in historical research because it directly influences the objectivity and validity of the final argument. A historian must use professional judgment to decide which evidence is most relevant and trustworthy. By critically choosing their data, researchers ensure that their narrative is well-supported and resistant to claims of being one-sided or inaccurate.

**158.** (C) Archaeology
Archaeology is the primary allied discipline that studies material culture through excavation. By analyzing physical remains such as pottery, tools, and architecture, archaeologists provide essential data for reconstructing the past, especially when written records are absent. This material evidence offers a tangible and direct link to the everyday lives and technological capabilities of past societies throughout human history.

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**159.** (A) Ethnocentric and served the interests of colonialism.
A major criticism of the Imperialist school of history is its ethnocentric bias, which often served the interests of colonial rule. These writers typically portrayed Western civilization as superior while depicting colonized societies as stagnant or inferior. This perspective was used to justify foreign domination as a benevolent mission, ignoring the complexities and achievements of the indigenous cultures they governed.

**160.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Subaltern Studies project was a significant development in Indian historiography because it challenged the elite-focused bias of previous narratives. By seeking to recover the history of marginalized and non-elite groups, this approach provided a more inclusive view of the past. It emphasized that ordinary people played crucial roles in historical processes, offering a necessary corrective to political histories.

**161.** (B) Karl Marx
Karl Marx is the primary thinker associated with the doctrine of historical materialism. This theoretical framework suggests that the economic base of a society—the mode of production—is the fundamental force driving historical change. According to this view, shifts in economic structures lead to transformations in social, political, and intellectual life, making the struggle between classes a key historical process.

**162.** (A) The long history of resistance against foreign rule and the cultural unity of India.
A national history of India written from a Nationalist perspective would likely emphasize the cultural unity of the country and the long tradition of resistance against foreign rule. This approach aims to counter colonial narratives of Indian disunity and stagnation. By highlighting past achievements and a shared national identity, such accounts sought to build pride and support independence.

**163.** (B) Cyclical, moving through great ages or 'yugas'.
The Puranic tradition conceived of time as cyclical rather than linear. It posited that history moves through a series of repeating ages, known as yugas, each characterized by varying levels of moral and social conditions. This cyclical view reflects a specific metaphysical understanding of the past where civilizations and time itself go through recurring phases of growth and decay.

**164.** (B) To provide a factual foundation and support for the historian's claims.
The fundamental role of evidence in historical writing is to provide a solid factual foundation for the historian's claims. Without evidence, history would be indistinguishable from fiction. Sources such as documents, artifacts, and oral accounts allow researchers to verify facts and support their interpretations, ensuring that their narrative is a credible and disciplined exploration of past actions.

**165.** (B) Historical memory embedded in religious hymns and rituals.
A key characteristic of the Vedic tradition of history is that historical memory is deeply embedded within religious hymns and rituals. Rather than a separate chronological record, the past is preserved through sacred texts that reflect the values and ancestral lineages of the time. This integration of myth and history shows how early societies maintained their collective identity through spirituality.

**166.** (C) The overarching patterns and meaning of the past.
A historian who views history as a philosophy is primarily interested in uncovering the overarching patterns and deeper meanings of the past. This approach looks beyond a simple list of events to explore whether there are universal truths or a specific purpose behind human development. It encourages researchers to reflect on the broader significance of the human experience across different eras.

**167.** (B) Ziauddin Barani : A historian of the Delhi Sultanate, author of Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi.
Ziauddin Barani was a central historian of the fourteenth century who authored the Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi, which provides a detailed record of several Sultans of the Delhi Sultanate. His work is essential for understanding the political and social dynamics of that period. Other authors like Abul Fazl and Kalhana focus on different

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eras and regions, representing diverse traditions of historiography.

**168.** (A) Primarily social history, with links to economic and political history.
Studying the impact of past epidemics on society involves multiple historical fields. It is primarily a topic of social history, as it examines the effects on community structures and daily life. However, it also links to economic history through its impact on labor and trade, and to political history through government responses and the broader consequences for state power and stability.

**169.** (B) Treating them as direct reflections of factual reality.
A major pitfall in using literary sources is treating them as direct reflections of factual reality. Creative works like poems and plays often use metaphors and artistic license to express their message. While they provide excellent insights into the cultural mindset and values of an era, historians must critically evaluate them alongside other evidence to ensure an accurate historical account.

**170.** (A) The study of the Orient (East) by Western scholars, often romanticizing its past.
The Orientalist approach is best described as the scholarly investigation of Eastern cultures and languages by Western researchers. This often involved the translation of ancient texts and a deep interest in the classical past of civilizations like India. While some Orientalists held romanticized views, their work was instrumental in uncovering and presenting the literary and philosophical heritage of the East.

**171.** (B) Ensure history is a respectable and credible academic discipline.
The need for objectivity in history is driven by the desire to establish the discipline as a credible and academically rigorous field. By striving for impartiality and grounding their work in evidence, historians ensure that their accounts are reliable and trustworthy. This professionalism distinguishes history from mere propaganda or fiction, allowing it to be a disciplined pursuit of understanding.

**172.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Different schools of thought are represented by influential historians. Vincent Smith is associated with the Imperialist school, while R.C. Majumdar is a prominent Nationalist historian. D.D. Kosambi pioneered the Marxist approach in India, and Ranajit Guha is a key figure in the Subaltern Studies group. These scholars have each shaped our understanding of Indian history through their unique frameworks.

**173.** (C) Economic mode of production
Historical materialism suggests that the fundamental base of any society is its economic mode of production. This base determines the social, political, and intellectual structures that form the society's superstructure. According to this Marxist view, changes in the way goods are produced and the resulting class struggles are the primary drivers of historical progression throughout the human past.

**174.** (A) A historian in a highly patriarchal society overlooking the role of women in the past.
A historian's bias can be influenced by their social environment, such as when someone living in a patriarchal society overlooks the historical role of women. This unconscious bias reflects the values and norms of the researcher's own time, which they may project onto the past. Recognizing these cultural influences is essential for historians to create a more balanced and accurate narrative.

**175.** (B) 1 and 2 only
Abul Fazl was a key court historian for Emperor Akbar and authored the Akbarnama, a vital source for understanding the Mughal period. His work provides vast administrative and political detail. However, as a court official writing for his patron, his narrative often includes significant praise. Therefore, while historically invaluable, it must be used with a critical awareness of its patronage.

**176.** (D) All of the above.
The problem of objectivity in history is especially complex because historians study humanity and are themselves part of that subject. Unlike scientists who can replicate experiments in a lab, historians deal with unique past events and often fragmented or biased sources. These factors, combined with the researcher's own

values, make achieving complete detachment and neutral interpretation exceptionally difficult in history.

**177.** (B) History of ideas
Tracing the evolution of an abstract concept like dharma across various ancient texts is a clear example of research in the history of ideas. This field explores how specific thoughts and principles have been understood and transformed through different cultural and historical contexts. It provides insights into the intellectual frameworks that have fundamentally influenced human behavior and societal structures over time.

**178.** (B) The process by which historical information is passed down and potentially changed.
Transmission in historical research refers to the process by which information about the past is passed down through various intermediaries. Each person who records, copies, or translates an account can introduce changes, errors, or personal biases. Historians must understand this process to critically evaluate how much the original evidence may have been altered before reaching the modern researcher's hands.

**179.** (B) Re-evaluate history from the perspective of marginalized groups.
A key objective of the Subaltern Studies collective was to re-evaluate history from the perspective of marginalized and subordinate groups. This approach aimed to give a voice to those often ignored by traditional histories, such as peasants and the working class. By focusing on history from below, these scholars sought to recover the agency of non-elite participants in historical events.

**180.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Kalhana's Rajatarangini is considered a landmark because it displays a relatively modern sense of historical inquiry. Written in the twelfth century, it used diverse sources and attempted to provide a chronological account with a degree of impartiality. Kalhana's effort to understand the causes of events marks a significant step toward a more systematic and disciplined approach to regional historical writing.

**181.** (B) Seals and pottery excavated from Mohenjo-Daro.
Seals and pottery excavated from Indus Valley sites like Mohenjo-Daro are primary archaeological sources. They were created and used by the people of that civilization, providing direct evidence of their trade, daily life, and material culture. Since the Indus script remains undeciphered, these material remains are especially crucial for historians attempting to reconstruct the past of this early society.

**182.** (A) History is seen as repeating patterns of growth and decay.
A cyclical view of history posits that human events move in repeating patterns rather than a linear progression. Civilizations are seen as going through regular phases of growth, maturity, and decline. This perspective suggests that certain historical processes recur over time, reflecting a metaphysical or social understanding of time that emphasizes repetition and the natural rise and fall of societies.

**183.** (B) History of art and aesthetics
Anand K. Coomaraswamy was a distinguished scholar whose work is primarily associated with the history of Indian art and aesthetics. He explored the deep philosophical and cultural roots of traditional artistic expression, arguing for its spiritual significance. His research provided a crucial historical and intellectual context for understanding the development and unique characteristics of Indian art across various periods.

**184.** (A) Portraying their nation's history in an overly positive light.
A historian with strong nationalist leanings may be biased toward presenting their country's history in an overly positive light. This can lead to the glorification of past achievements and the minimization of failures or internal conflicts. Such bias aims to build national pride and unity but may compromise the pursuit of a fully balanced and objective historical narrative and interpretation.

**185.** (D) The material basis of a society, including production, trade, and class relations.
Correlating history with economics helps researchers understand the material basis of past

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societies. It involves investigating land revenue systems, trade patterns, and class relations. By analyzing how goods were produced and distributed, historians gain insights into the social structures and power dynamics that were shaped by economic conditions, providing a more comprehensive view of society.

**186.** (B) Conducting laboratory experiments to replicate past events.
The historian's research process involves collecting data, selecting relevant evidence, and conducting critical analysis of diverse sources. It concludes with the construction of a reasoned narrative. However, historians do not conduct laboratory experiments to replicate past events. Since the past is unique and cannot be repeated, historical inquiry relies on the interpretation of surviving remains rather than experimental replication.

**187.** (B) Analyze a historical text to uncover its hidden biases and assumptions.
A post-modernist approach would likely involve analyzing a historical text to uncover its hidden biases and underlying assumptions. This school of thought focuses on deconstructing narratives rather than establishing a single objective truth. By examining how language and power structures shape a text, post-modernists emphasize that every historical account is a construct reflecting a specific perspective and context.

**188.** (C) The Mughal Empire
Yadunath Sarkar is renowned for his detailed narrative accounts of the Mughal Empire, especially the reign of Aurangzeb. He was a pioneer in using a wide range of Persian sources and conducted extensive archival research. His meticulous work provided a comprehensive understanding of the political and military history of the Mughal period, setting a high standard for modern academic historiography.

**189.** (B) "Thus it was" or "so it has been"
The term Itihasa in the Indian tradition is often translated as history and literally means thus it was or so it has been. This root signifies a connection to events that actually occurred in the past. While it often includes elements of myth and philosophy, the term reflects an indigenous sense of historical consciousness and the preservation of collective memory.

**190.** (C) Ziauddin Barani - Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
Several historical works are traditionally associated with their authors. Banabhatta wrote the Harshacharita, Kalhana authored the Rajatarangini, and Abul Fazl wrote the Akbarnama. However, Ziauddin Barani is the author of the Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi, while the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri was written by Minhaj-us-siraj. Correctly identifying these pairings is essential for navigating the primary sources of medieval and ancient Indian history writing.

**191.** (C) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
Striving for objectivity in history involves a commitment to acknowledging one's own biases and being transparent about the use of evidence. While absolute objectivity may be impossible to achieve because every researcher has their own perspective, the goal is to provide a fair and balanced account. By following systematic methods, historians ensure that their interpretations are credible and academically sound.

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**192.** (B) History of constitution
A study analyzing the evolution of citizen rights and the development of a country's governing document falls under the history of the constitution. This field focuses on how legal frameworks and political structures change over time. It provides a crucial context for understanding the origins and progress of the laws that define the relationship between the state and its citizens.

**193.** (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Prominent historical works and thinkers define different traditions. Minhaj-us-siraj authored the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, and K.P. Jaiswal is known for Hindu Polity. D.D. Kosambi pioneered the Marxist approach in Indian historiography, while Shukra is associated with the Nitisara, an ancient treatise on statecraft. These associations help identify the diverse intellectual contributions that have shaped our understanding of past governance and society.

**194.** (D) Oral transmission of genealogies and heroic tales by bards.
The Suta tradition was an early form of historical preservation in ancient India that relied on the oral transmission of knowledge. Bards and genealogists, known as Sutas, were responsible for memorizing and reciting the histories of kings and dynasties in royal courts. This oral practice played a vital role in maintaining collective memory before these records were eventually committed to writing.

**195.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Historiography in India has involved several competing perspectives. Imperialist writers often portrayed pre-British India as disorganized, while Nationalist historians countered this by highlighting ancient achievements. Subaltern historiography critiques both for being elitist and failing to include the voices of common people. Together, these different schools reflect the complex intellectual journey of interpreting India's past through various ideological lenses.

**196.** (A) A critical inquiry into the human past in all its aspects.
The definition of history has evolved from a simple narration of past events into a sophisticated and critical inquiry into all aspects of the human past. It is now understood as a disciplined academic field that uses rigorous methodologies to analyze social, economic, cultural, and political changes. This holistic approach aims to provide a deeper understanding of human society.

**197.** (C) Satishchandra Mittal
Professor Satishchandra Mittal is known for his work that often challenges established secular and Marxist interpretations of Indian history from a nationalist viewpoint. His writing emphasizes indigenous cultural values and seeks to re-evaluate traditional historical narratives. This approach reflects a specific school of thought in modern Indian historiography that aims to present the past through a nationalist ideological lens.

**198.** (A) Is structured to prove the superiority of their own faith.
Religious bias in historical writing occurs when a researcher's work is structured to demonstrate the superiority of their own faith. This may involve interpreting past events as evidence of divine favor or presenting a one-sided view of history that aligns with specific religious doctrines. Such bias compromises the impartiality of the work by prioritizing religious goals over balanced historical analysis.

**199.** (C) A primary archaeological source
A coin from the reign of Samudragupta is an example of a primary archaeological source. It is a direct material remains from the period, providing authentic evidence of the ruler's name, titles, and religious iconography. Such artifacts are invaluable for historians as they offer tangible proof to verify or supplement information found in literary sources or later historical accounts.

**200.** (A) Objectivity and subjectivity
The debate over history being a science or an art centers on the tension between objectivity and subjectivity. Those who emphasize its scientific nature focus on evidence and critical methodology. Those who see it as an art highlight the role of narrative and imagination. This duality suggests that while history requires disciplined research, it also needs creative synthesis to present truth.

**201.** (D) A source interpreting primary materials created after the event.
A secondary source is a work produced after the period under study, providing an interpretation or synthesis of primary materials. Examples include modern textbooks and research articles. Unlike primary sources, which offer direct evidence from participants or observers, secondary sources analyze earlier records to offer a broader perspective or a new understanding of historical events and their long-term significance.

**202.** (A) The mode of production
The Marxist approach to history views human development as a progression of stages primarily defined by the mode of production. It suggests that changes in how a society produces and distributes goods are the fundamental drivers of historical transformation. This perspective focuses on class struggles and how economic structures shape social, political, and intellectual life across different periods.

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**203.** (C) Charit tradition
Bias stemming from gratitude to a patron was particularly common in the Charit tradition of ancient India. Since court poets were dependent on rulers for their livelihood, their biographies often emphasized the king's virtues while downplaying their failures. This laudatory style served to glorify the patron, requiring modern historians to use these sources with careful critical analysis and cross-referencing.

**204.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Historians must critically evaluate all sources, including primary ones, because even eyewitness accounts can contain errors or personal biases. A diary or a government report is a product of its time and reflects the specific perspective or agenda of its author. Therefore, professional research involves cross-referencing diverse sources to build a more accurate and balanced historical narrative and interpretation.

**205.** (B) Historiography
Historiography is the study of how history has been written and how our understanding of the past has changed over time. It examines the methods, biases, and schools of thought used by different generations of historians. By analyzing the history of historical writing, researchers can better understand the context of earlier works and develop a more critical and self-aware approach to history.

**206.** (C) An all-encompassing theory explaining the sweep of history.
A grand theory in historiography is an all-encompassing framework that attempts to explain the entire trajectory of human history through a single set of principles. Examples include historical materialism or cyclical theories of civilization. These theories seek to provide a universal explanation for historical change, unifying diverse events under an overarching theoretical umbrella to understand the broader human past.

**207.** (B) The impact of Darwin's theory of evolution on European thought.
Intellectual history focuses on the development and impact of thoughts and theories over time. Studying the influence of Darwin's theory of evolution on European thinking is a classic example, as it explores how a scientific idea reshaped broader philosophical and social views. This field provides a deeper understanding of the intellectual environment and the ideas that have influenced human actions.

**208.** (C) His thesis in 'Hindu Polity' which argued against stereotypes.
Kashi Prasad Jaiswal made a major contribution to Nationalist historiography through his work Hindu Polity. In this book, he challenged colonial claims that India was inherently despotic by arguing for the existence of ancient republics and democratic institutions. His research aimed to provide historical legitimacy for the modern Indian national identity and the aspiration for self-governance during the struggle for independence.

**209.** (A) How spatial factors have influenced historical development.
The correlation between history and geography is essential for understanding how physical environments have influenced human development. Factors like climate, terrain, and natural resources shape where civilizations emerge and how they interact through trade or warfare. By recognizing these spatial influences, historians can provide a more comprehensive explanation of why certain historical events unfolded in specific geographic locations throughout history.

**210.** (C) History provides absolute, unchanging truths that are not open to reinterpretation.
History is not a collection of absolute and unchanging truths. Instead, it is a dynamic discipline where interpretations are constantly revised as new evidence is discovered or new perspectives emerge. While historians strive for objectivity and follow systematic methods, their accounts are always subject to re-evaluation, reflecting the ongoing and evolving nature of our understanding of the human past.

**211.** (B) Historical accounts integrated within hagiographies.
The Jain tradition of history writing is often characterized by historical accounts that are closely integrated within religious hagiographies and chronicles. These texts, while focused on

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spiritual figures, also preserve valuable details about social structures, urban life, and the patronage of various rulers. This integration of religious and historical memory provides important insights into the cultural landscape of ancient society.

**212.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Major historical works are identified with specific authors across different periods. Kalhana wrote the Rajatarangini, and Banabhatta authored the Harshacharita. Abul Fazl is famous for the Akbarnama, while Ziauddin Barani recorded the Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi. These texts are primary sources that allow historians to explore regional chronicles, royal biographies, and administrative histories of both ancient and medieval India.

**213.** (B) The chronological account of dynasties.
Vamshanucharita is a key component of the Puranic tradition and refers to the chronological account of dynasties and royal genealogies. This focus on lineages served as a way to preserve historical memory and political authority across generations. By recording the successions of kings, the Puranas provide an indigenous form of historical record-keeping that links the past with the present.

**214.** (B) A detached and impartial approach, minimizing personal bias.
Objectivity in history signifies a commitment to a detached and impartial approach, where the historian seeks to minimize personal bias and ground their work in evidence. It involves presenting a fair account that acknowledges different perspectives and avoids manipulating facts. This professional ethic is fundamental for creating credible and reliable historical interpretations that can withstand critical academic scrutiny.

**215.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Nationalist historiography emerged as a direct response to the biased narratives produced by Imperialist historians. While Nationalist writers sought to rebuild pride in India's past, the later Subaltern approach critiqued both schools for being elitist and ignoring the roles of ordinary people. These different approaches reflect the ongoing intellectual effort to provide more inclusive and accurate accounts of history.

NODIA

**216.** (A) The early Delhi Sultanate.
Minhaj-us-siraj authored the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, which is an essential primary source for the history of the early Delhi Sultanate. His work provides a detailed narrative of the rise of Islamic power in Northern India and the various rulers of the Mamluk dynasty. His accounts offer crucial information on the political and military developments during the thirteenth century in India.

**217.** (A) The prevailing cultural norms and unstated assumptions of their own society.
Social environment bias occurs when a historian's interpretation is unconsciously shaped by the values and cultural norms of their own society. A researcher may project modern attitudes or assumptions onto people of the past, potentially overlooking different perspectives. Recognizing this influence is vital for historians to better understand the limitations of their own viewpoint and create more nuanced historical interpretations.

**218.** (C) Economic history
Economic history investigates the material aspects of the past, including land revenue systems, trade patterns, and technological developments. It explores how goods were produced and distributed and how these factors influenced social relationships and power dynamics. By focusing on the material base of society, economic history provides a more complete understanding of the factors driving change across different eras.

**219.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Historical research is a systematic process that begins with the formulation of a clear research question. It involves the careful collection and critical evaluation of diverse primary and secondary sources. The final goal is to produce a reasoned narrative or analysis that is firmly supported by evidence, ensuring that our understanding of the past is both factually grounded and interpretively sound.

**220.** (C) Deconstruct "objective" accounts to reveal their constructed nature.
The primary goal of the post-modernist critique of history is to deconstruct seemingly objective accounts and reveal their constructed nature.

This approach argues that history is shaped by language and power rather than being a neutral mirror of reality. By analyzing how historical narratives are built, post-modernists highlight the inherent subjectivity and the multiple possible interpretations of past events.

**221.** (B) Yadunath Sarkar
Yadunath Sarkar is a renowned modern historian who dedicated much of his career to writing a comprehensive, multi-volume history of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. His research was distinguished by his extensive use of primary Persian records and his commitment to detailed, evidence-based narrative. Sarkar's work set high academic standards and remains a foundational contribution to the study of Mughal history.

**222.** (A) Often use narrative as a primary mode of expression.
History and literature share a strong correlation because both disciplines often utilize narrative as their primary mode of expression. While history is grounded in factual evidence and literature in creative imagination, both aim to convey aspects of the human experience. Historians use narrative skill to make the past coherent, while literary works often reflect the social and cultural mindset.

**223.** (A) It refers to the range of subjects, themes, and areas that the discipline covers.
The scope of history refers to the wide range of subjects, themes, and geographic areas that the discipline investigates. It encompasses everything from political events and economic systems to social structures and cultural beliefs. Over time, the scope of history has expanded to be more inclusive, reflecting a desire to understand the totality of human experience across all periods.

**224.** (C) A more critical, scientific, and source-based approach.
Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar's work represents a significant turn toward a more scientific and critical approach in modern Indian historiography. He emphasized the rigorous evaluation of original sources, such as inscriptions and classical texts, rather than accepting traditional narratives without question. His commitment to disciplined research methods helped establish history as a professional and academic field in India during the late nineteenth century.

**225.** (C) A is true but R is false.
Primary sources are essential for authentic historical research because they provide a direct link to the time period under study. However, being contemporary to an event does not make them automatically free from error or bias. A participant's diary or an official report reflects a specific perspective. Therefore, historians must still critically analyze primary sources to separate facts from interpretation.

**226.** (B) Social history
Studying the changing roles of women over several centuries is a central theme in social history. This field looks beyond traditional political narratives to investigate the everyday lives and social structures that define human experience. By analyzing gender dynamics and community relationships, social history provides a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of how entire societies have evolved throughout the human past.

**227.** (B) The rise and fall of all civilizations.
The cyclical concept of history is a grand theory because it proposes a universal pattern that applies to the rise and fall of all civilizations. It suggests that societies go through repeating stages of development, maturity, and decay. By offering a single overarching explanation for the trajectory of human history, it provides a macro-level perspective on the recurring patterns of change.

**228.** (C) Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi - Ziauddin Barani
Identifying correct pairings of authors and their works is fundamental for historical research. Ziauddin Barani is the author of the Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi, a vital source for the Delhi Sultanate. Other famous works like the Rajatarangini were written by Kalhana, the Harshacharita by Banabhatta, and the Akbarnama by Abul Fazl. These texts represent diverse traditions of recording the past across different eras.

**229.** (D) Instill a sense of national pride and counter colonial historiography.
Nationalist historians in India wrote with the primary goal of instilling national pride and

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countering the biased accounts of colonial writers. By highlighting the achievements of ancient and medieval India, they aimed to show that the country had a rich and unified history. This intellectual effort was intended to provide a sense of identity and legitimacy for the independence struggle.

**230.** (C) Nation, political party, or ideology
Political loyalty as a cause of bias refers to a historian's allegiance to a specific nation, political party, or ideology. This commitment can influence how they select and interpret evidence, potentially leading to a narrative that supports their political goals. Recognizing such loyalty is crucial for readers to understand the perspective and potential partiality that might shape a specific historical account.

**231.** (A) History uses written sources while archaeology primarily uses material remains.
The primary distinction between history and archaeology lies in the types of evidence they use. History relies heavily on written sources like documents and chronicles. Archaeology, meanwhile, focuses on the systematic recovery and analysis of material remains such as artifacts and architecture. Both disciplines work together to provide a more complete understanding of the past, especially for ancient periods.

**232.** (C) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
The Marxist school of historiography is defined by its analysis of history through class struggle and economic structures. This perspective focuses on how the material basis of society drives change. In contrast, the Subaltern school aims to recover the history of non-elite groups, critiquing traditional narratives for being focused only on rulers and leaders. Both offer alternative viewpoints to elitist history.

**233.** (B) A historical biography, often eulogistic
Charit literature consists of historical biographies that focus on the lives and deeds of specific rulers. Works like the Harshacharita were often written by court poets and are characterized by their laudatory and poetic style. While they contain valuable details about the social and political conditions of the era, their primary purpose was often to glorify the virtues of a specific patron.

**234.** (C) Evaluating and choosing the most relevant information.
The selection of data in historical research is the critical process of evaluating and choosing the most relevant information from a vast array of sources. A historian must determine which evidence is trustworthy and directly addresses their research question. This essential step ensures that the final narrative is focused and based on the most reliable facts available to the researcher.

NODIA

**235.** (A) A scholarly interest in the languages and history of the East by Westerners.
The Orientalist approach is characterized by Western scholars' deep interest in the languages, texts, and history of the East. This scholarly investigation often focused on uncovering and translating the classical heritage of civilizations like India. While some held romanticized views, their work provided a systematic foundation for the modern academic study of Eastern cultures and their long historical development.

**236.** (D) Minhaj-us-siraj
Minhaj-us-siraj was a prominent historian of the thirteenth century who authored the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri. This comprehensive work chronicles various Islamic dynasties and provides essential details on the early years of the Delhi Sultanate. It is a vital primary source for understanding the political and military expansion of Islamic rule in Northern India and the challenges faced by its early rulers.

**237.** (B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Key terms define the framework of historiography. Etymology explores the origin of the word history, while objectivity refers to the pursuit of impartiality in research. Bias signifies the personal prejudices that can shape an account, and scope refers to the range of topics a historian covers. Together, these concepts help clarify the methodology and professional standards used in the academic discipline.

**238.** (A) The Marxist framework combined with philology and statistics.
D.D. Kosambi made a significant impact on Indian historiography by pioneering the use of a Marxist framework. He moved beyond purely political accounts, integrating diverse fields

like statistics and philology to analyze ancient social formations. His interdisciplinary approach focused on the relationship between economic structures and cultural development, providing a more comprehensive understanding of how early Indian societies evolved over time.

**239.** (D) Marxist
The view that history is a story of class struggle is the central theme of the Marxist approach. This school of thought suggests that the fundamental driver of change is the conflict between different social groups over the means of production. By analyzing these economic tensions, Marxist historians aim to explain how societies transform from one developmental stage to another throughout history.

**240.** (B) The way information is passed down can affect its accuracy and meaning.
The phrase evidence and its transmission emphasizes that historical information is not static but can be changed as it is passed through various sources. Every person who records, copies, or translates an event can introduce their own interpretation or error. Recognizing this process is essential for historians to critically evaluate the reliability of their sources and the potential for distortion over time.

**241.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
History covers various aspects of the human past. Political history focuses on governance and statecraft, while social history investigates everyday life and community structures. Economic history analyzes production, distribution, and trade patterns. Together, these fields provide a multifaceted and holistic understanding of how human societies have developed, functioned, and changed across different eras and geographic regions throughout the long past.

**242.** (B) Gratitude to the patron ruler
A historian commissioned to write an official history of a ruling dynasty must be especially wary of bias resulting from gratitude to their patron. Since the researcher is financially or politically dependent on the ruler, there is a strong incentive to exaggerate successes and downplay failures. This dependency can compromise the impartiality and critical balance required for a truly objective historical narrative.

**243.** (B) The development of specific concepts over time.
The history of ideas is a specialized field that traces the origin and evolution of specific abstract concepts through different time periods. It investigates how thoughts like justice, power, or freedom have been understood and transformed across various cultural contexts. This approach provides a deeper understanding of the intellectual frameworks that have fundamentally influenced human behavior and societal development over time.

**244.** (B) Kalhana
Kalhana is the author of the twelfth-century masterpiece, the Rajatarangini, which provides a detailed chronicle of the kings of Kashmir. This work is celebrated in Indian historiography for its sophisticated approach and its attempt to provide a systematic and critical history of a specific region. It remains one of the most important primary sources for understanding ancient and early medieval history.

**245.** (A) Be as impartial as possible, supported by evidence.
The professional ethic of historical objectivity requires researchers to be as impartial as possible, grounding their work in a critical analysis of evidence. A historian must be transparent about their sources and willing to consider diverse perspectives. This commitment ensures that historical accounts are credible and trustworthy, providing a reliable foundation for understanding the complexities of the human past.

**246.** (A) Environmental
While several approaches like Marxist, Subaltern, and Orientalist provide theoretical frameworks for historiography, the term environmental is often used to describe a factor in history rather than being a traditional, primary school of historical thought. These established approaches focus on class struggle, marginalized groups, or scholarly investigation, providing specific lenses through which to interpret and analyze the complex human past.

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**247.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The correlation of history with sociology is highly productive because sociology offers theoretical concepts that help historians understand social change and structures. By applying these models, researchers can look beyond individual events to see the broader social patterns and institutional dynamics of the past. This interdisciplinary approach provides a more comprehensive and sophisticated understanding of how human societies functioned.

**248.** (A) An oral tradition of history-telling by bards.
The Suta tradition of ancient India was primarily an oral practice maintained by bards and genealogists. These individuals were responsible for preserving the memory of kings and dynasties by reciting their lineages and heroic deeds in royal courts. This bardic tradition served as an essential precursor to written historical records, helping to maintain a sense of continuity and collective identity.

**249.** (C) The same document can be primary for one question and secondary for another.
The distinction between primary and secondary sources is not always rigid. The same document can be a primary source for one research question—such as a modern textbook being used to study the history of education—and a secondary source for another. This flexibility highlights that the value of a source depends on the specific context and goals of the research.

**250.** (B) Nationalist
Scholars like R.C. Majumdar and K.P. Jaiswal represent the Nationalist school of Indian historiography. This school emerged to counter colonial narratives and build a sense of national pride by highlighting India's past achievements. Their work focused on documenting the country's cultural and political heritage from an indigenous perspective, providing an intellectual foundation for the growing movement for national independence.

**251.** (A) Imperialistic
The Imperialistic approach to history is defined by studying the past from the perspective of the colonizers. This school of thought often sought to legitimize colonial rule by portraying it as a modernizing force while depicting the indigenous society as stagnant or in need of guidance. Such narratives served the political and administrative interests of the colonial state through specific historical interpretation.

**252.** (B) Systematic inquiry into facts and theories based on evidence.
Research in history is defined as a systematic inquiry into facts and theories based on the critical analysis of evidence. It involves more than just gathering information; it requires questioning sources and constructing a reasoned argument. This disciplined process is essential for building a reliable and academic understanding of the past, ensuring that historical claims are firmly grounded in empirical research.

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**253.** (B) History moves through repeating phases of growth and decay.
The cyclical concept of history views the human past as a series of repeating patterns, where civilizations rise, mature, and eventually decline in a predictable cycle. This perspective suggests that historical processes are not unique but recur over time. It offers a macro-level understanding of the trajectory of human events that emphasizes the natural and recurring phases of societal development.

**254.** (C) The Delhi Sultanate under the Khaljis and Tughlaqs
Ziauddin Barani was a prominent historian of the fourteenth century whose writings are a major primary source for the Delhi Sultanate. His most famous work, the Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi, provides a detailed political account of several Sultans, particularly during the Khalji and Tughlaq periods. His narratives offer essential insights into the administrative and social conditions of the medieval Sultanate era.

**255.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Early Indian history writing included diverse traditions. The Puranic tradition focused on dynastic genealogies and a cyclical concept of time. Meanwhile, the Charit tradition specialized in royal biographies, often written in a laudatory style to honor a patron ruler. Both forms of recording the past reflect an indigenous historical consciousness and the preservation of collective memory long before modern academic methods.

**256.** (A) Project the values and concerns of their own society onto the past.
A historian's social environment can lead to an unconscious bias where they project the values and concerns of their own society onto the past. This influence can shape how they select themes or interpret the actions of historical figures. Recognizing these cultural lenses is essential for researchers to develop a more self-aware and balanced perspective on the complexities of history.

**257.** (A) Abul Fazl
Abul Fazl was a central historian of the medieval period who served as a key official for Emperor Akbar. His monumental work, the Akbarnama, is an essential primary source for understanding the Mughal administration and the political events of the sixteenth century. Other authors like Banabhatta or Kalhana belong to the ancient period, while Yadunath Sarkar is a modern historian.

**258.** (C) Achieving objective historical truth.
The post-modernist school of thought fundamentally challenges the possibility of achieving a single, objective truth about the past. It suggests that every historical account is a construct shaped by language and the historian's own perspective. By highlighting the subjective nature of interpretation, post-modernism emphasizes that multiple narratives are possible, questioning the idea of history as a purely factual representation.

**259.** (D) The geographical and conceptual scale of analysis.
The key difference between national history and world history lies in their geographical and conceptual scale of analysis. While national history focuses on the development of a specific state or people, world history looks at global connections and comparisons across different civilizations. Both approaches provide valuable insights but operate at different levels of breadth to explain the human past.

**260.** (A) Excavation and analysis of material remains
Archaeology is a vital allied discipline of history that primarily uses the method of excavation to recover and analyze material remains. By investigating physical artifacts and architecture, archaeologists provide direct evidence of past human activity. This tangible data is especially important for periods with limited or no written records, helping historians reconstruct the daily lives and technologies of ancient societies.

**261.** (C) Divine will or intervention.
The religious approach to history interprets historical causality as stemming from divine will or intervention. From this perspective, past events are seen as the unfolding of a higher spiritual plan rather than being driven solely by human agency or material conditions. Historical narratives are often structured around religious milestones, viewing the fortunes of societies as reflections of spiritual alignment.

**262.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Bias in history can be either conscious or unconscious, and recognizing its presence is a fundamental part of historiography. While the complete elimination of all bias is a recognized professional goal, it is exceptionally difficult to achieve because every researcher writes from a specific perspective. Acknowledging this challenge is essential for historians to strive for a more balanced and transparent account.

**263.** (A) Bias stemming from gratitude and dependence on a patron.
The Charit tradition, which involved writing biographies like the Harshacharita, often displays bias stemming from a historian's gratitude and dependence on their patron ruler. Since these writers were frequently court poets, they had a strong incentive to praise the virtues of the king. This laudatory style requires modern researchers to use these accounts with critical evaluation to separate facts from poetry.

**264.** (B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
Different schools of history are defined by their key ideas. The Marxist approach views history as a struggle between classes, while the Nationalist approach builds pride to resist colonialism. Imperialist history often justifies colonial rule, and the post-modernist approach treats history as a narrative construct. These diverse perspectives shape how historians interpret the underlying forces that drive human societal change.

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**265.** (A) Knowledge acquired through investigation
In its original Greek context, the term historia implied knowledge acquired through active investigation or inquiry. This root meaning highlights that the discipline is fundamentally about the research process rather than just passive storytelling. It emphasizes that understanding the past requires a systematic effort to discover truth through questioning and critical evaluation of information, which remains a core professional standard.

**266.** (A) History of constitution and political history
A study investigating the development of the Indian Parliament since 1947 is an example of both political history and the history of the constitution. It examines the institutional structures, legal changes, and power dynamics of the modern state. This field provides essential insights into how the governing framework of a nation has evolved to meet the needs of its people over time.

**267.** (D) Social history
Social history focuses on the study of community relations, family life, and past social structures. By analyzing the experiences of ordinary people rather than just the actions of elites, this field provides a more inclusive view of the past. It investigates how social hierarchies and everyday customs have changed over time, helping to explain the complex social fabric of different societies.

**268.** (A) A scientific and evidence-based approach to history.
Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar's scholarship in the nineteenth century was significant for promoting a scientific and evidence-based approach to Indian history. He emphasized the use of primary sources and critical analysis, moving away from uncritical traditional narratives. His commitment to rigorous methodology helped establish history as a disciplined and academic pursuit in India during a transformative intellectual period for historiography.

**269.** (A) That it involves imagination, interpretation, and narrative.
Those who consider history an art argue that it involves more than just a list of facts; it requires imagination, interpretation, and narrative skill. A historian must weave fragmented data into a coherent and meaningful story to make the past accessible. This perspective highlights the role of the researcher's creative synthesis in bringing the human experiences of the past to life.

**270.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The doctrine of historical materialism posits that the economic base of a society determines its social and political superstructure. According to this view, history progresses through stages driven by conflicts between social classes over the means of production. This Marxist framework provides a universal theory for understanding how shifts in material conditions fundamentally transform the entire structure of human societies.

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**271.** (A) Primary source
An autobiography is a primary source because it is a direct, first-hand account written by a person who participated in the events they describe. While such works can be influenced by the author's personal perspective or desire to present themselves in a specific way, they offer invaluable evidence of the thoughts and motivations of key historical figures for research and analysis.

**272.** (A) People of subordinate rank or social status; the masses.
Within the Subaltern Studies school, the term subaltern refers to people of subordinate social status or rank, essentially the common masses. This approach focuses on recovering the history and agency of these marginalized groups who were often left out of traditional elite-centric narratives. By highlighting their roles, subaltern scholars aim to provide a more inclusive and complete understanding of historical change.

**273.** (A) Statecraft and political science (niti)
The work traditionally associated with Shukra is centered on statecraft and political science, known as niti. This treatise provides ancient principles for governance, administrative organization, and the duties of a ruler. It offers a theoretical and practical framework for political life, reflecting an important dimension of ancient Indian thought that sought to systematize the rules of power and social conduct.

**274.** (A) Historical objectivity
Historical objectivity requires a researcher to consider all evidence, even if it contradicts their

own thesis. Choosing to ignore such data is a violation of professional ethics and compromises the integrity of the work. A credible historical account must engage honestly with conflicting information to provide a balanced interpretation, ensuring that the final narrative is an accurate reflection of the past.

**275.** (A) D. D. Kosambi
D.D. Kosambi is the most famous historian for introducing and applying a Marxist analysis to ancient Indian history. His pioneering work shifted the focus from purely political events to the relationship between social formations and economic modes of production. By using an interdisciplinary approach, he provided a more nuanced and materialist understanding of how early Indian societies developed and transformed over time.

**276.** (A) Specific case studies and data from the past.
History often provides sociology with specific case studies and tangible data from the past to support social theories. While sociology develops models to understand human community life, history provides the long-term evidence of how these social structures and processes have actually played out. This relationship allows for a deeper and more evidence-based analysis of social change across different eras.

**277.** (A) Royal genealogies and dynastic succession.
The Puranic tradition is a vital source for understanding royal genealogies and dynastic successions in ancient India. It preserves long lists of lineages that provide a framework for the political history of the time. While mythological in parts, these records offer an indigenous form of historical memory that connects past rulers and dynasties, helping modern historians reconstruct early political developments.

**278.** (A) Objectivity
The ideal that a historian should be fearless and a friend of truth reflects the paramount importance of objectivity in the discipline. It highlights the need for researchers to remain impartial and dedicated to factual accuracy, even when faced with political or social pressure. This commitment to truth ensures that historical accounts are reliable, credible, and resistant to partisan manipulation.

**279.** (A) The Subaltern approach focuses on the history of kings and presidents.
The Subaltern approach does not focus on the history of kings and presidents; instead, it centers on the lives and agency of marginalized, non-elite groups. This approach critiques traditional histories for their elite bias and aims to provide a more inclusive account of the past. Other schools like Nationalist, Imperialist, and Marxist each have their own thematic priorities.

**280.** (A) A recent war or political movement.
A historian's political loyalty is most likely to create bias when they are writing about a recent war or political movement. In such cases, the researcher may have strong personal feelings or an ideological stake in the outcome. This can lead to a one-sided account that prioritizes a specific political agenda over the pursuit of a neutral and balanced historical interpretation.

**281.** (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Several historians are associated with specific contributions. Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar pioneered the scientific method in India, while R.C. Majumdar edited a monumental series on Indian history. Anand K. Coomaraswamy specialized in art history, and Satishchandra Mittal is known for his nationalist perspective. These diverse scholars have each shaped our understanding of the past through their unique methodologies and ideological viewpoints.

**282.** (A) Inventing sources to fit a specific theory.
The process of collecting historical data involves visiting archives, examining archaeological remains, and conducting oral interviews. It is a systematic effort to find authentic evidence from the past. However, inventing sources to fit a theory is a violation of professional ethics and does not constitute legitimate historical research. A historian must always ground their work in the actual surviving remains.

**283.** (A) The shared meanings and symbols of a group.
Cultural history focuses on the study of the shared meanings, symbols, and beliefs that define a specific group of people. It looks beyond political events to investigate popular customs, artistic expressions, and religious values. By exploring these themes, cultural history provides a deeper understanding of the collective mindset and the

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everyday life of societies throughout different periods of the human past.

**284.** (A) Doctrine of historical materialism
The doctrine of historical materialism is a quintessential grand theory as it offers an overarching framework to explain the entire course of human history. This Marxist theory suggests that economic modes of production are the fundamental drivers of all social and political change. By providing a universal explanation for historical development, it seeks to unify diverse events under a theoretical framework.

**285.** (A) A skepticism toward grand narratives and truth.
The core of the post-modernist approach is its deep skepticism toward grand narratives and the idea of objective truth. This school of thought argues that historical accounts are constructed through language rather than being direct reflections of reality. By focusing on deconstructing texts, post-modernists aim to reveal the multiple perspectives and underlying power structures that shape our understanding of history.

**286.** (A) History of constitution
When a historian investigates the development of a country's legal system and its governing document, they are working within the history of the constitution. This field traces how laws and political structures have evolved over time to define the state and its relationship with citizens. It provides essential context for understanding the origins and progress of modern legal frameworks and governance.

**287.** (A) A secondary source can be a primary source for historiography research.
A secondary source can sometimes serve as a primary source for historiographical research. For example, a twentieth-century history book is a secondary source for the event it describes, but it is a primary source if you are studying how historians in that period thought about the past. This distinction highlights that the value of any source depends on the research goals.

**288.** (A) Interprets historical events as proof of faith superiority.
Religious bias occurs when a historian interprets historical events as proof of their faith's superiority. This can involve using past events to validate religious doctrines or presenting a one-sided view that reflects the writer's personal beliefs. Recognizing such bias is important for understanding how a historian's spiritual context may have influenced their interpretation of events and the construction of narratives.

**289.** (A) Emphasizing India's past achievements to counter colonial stereotypes.
The Nationalist approach in India is best represented by the effort to emphasize past achievements as a way to counter colonial stereotypes. This school of thought aimed to restore pride in India's ancient culture and political history, arguing against imperialist claims of stagnation. By highlighting indigenous success, Nationalist historians provided an intellectual foundation for the goal of national independence and self-governance.

**290.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Several authors are key to Indian historiography. Ziauddin Barani was a major historian of the Delhi Sultanate, while Kalhana authored the detailed regional chronicle of Kashmir. Banabhatta wrote the famous biography of King Harsha in a laudatory style. These writers represent different periods and traditions, and their works are essential primary sources for reconstructing various phases of India's long and diverse history.

**291.** (A) Is based on logical deduction from evidence.
Describing history as a science of reasoning implies that it is based on the logical deduction of facts from evidence. This perspective emphasizes that historical knowledge is not a random collection of stories but a disciplined inquiry that follows systematic rules. By using reason to evaluate sources and build arguments, historians create a factually grounded and credible understanding of the human past.

**292.** (C) Oral history bards and charioteers.
The Suta tradition refers to the early oral practice in ancient India where bards and charioteers, known as Sutas, preserved the genealogies and heroic deeds of rulers. These oral accounts were recited in royal courts and served as a crucial way to maintain collective memory. This tradition was eventually integrated into written texts

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like the Puranas, helping to document dynastic successions and ancestral lineages.

**293.** (A) Cannot be fully detached from their personal values and context.
The problem of historical objectivity exists because historians are inevitably shaped by their own personal values and the cultural context of their time. Since every researcher has their own perspective, it is difficult to detach themselves completely from these influences when selecting and interpreting evidence. This inherent subjectivity means that achieving a purely neutral and objective account of the past is exceptionally difficult.

**294.** (A) A source created by a witness to an event.
A primary source is an original material produced at the time of the event under study by a witness or participant. These include documents like diaries, letters, and official records. Primary sources provide the direct evidence that historians use to build their accounts. They are distinct from secondary sources, which are later interpretations or syntheses created after the historical event has occurred.

**295.** (A) Subaltern - History of the marginalized
Different historical approaches focus on specific central concerns. The Subaltern approach concentrates on the history of the marginalized, providing a voice to those often ignored by traditional narratives. Other schools have their own priorities: Nationalist history builds identity, Marxist history explores class struggle, and Imperialist history often justified colonial rule. Each offers a unique lens to understand the complexities of human societal development.

**296.** (A) Provide a well-reasoned, evidence-based account.
A historian's primary objective should be to provide a well-reasoned and evidence-based account of the past. This requires following systematic methods for evaluating sources and maintaining a commitment to impartiality. By grounding their interpretations in research, historians ensure that their work is credible and contributes to an honest and academically rigorous understanding of the human experience across different eras and regions.

**297.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The scope of history has expanded significantly from its traditional focus on elite politics and warfare. Modern historians now adopt a more holistic view, investigating social structures, economic systems, and cultural and intellectual developments. This expansion allows for a more comprehensive understanding of how past societies functioned as a whole, reflecting the diversity and complexity of the human experience over time and space.

**298.** (A) Studying how past political theories have shaped structures.
The correlation of history with politics is seen when researchers investigate how past theories have influenced the development of political structures. This field examines power dynamics, governance, and the nature of the state across different eras. By studying these connections, historians provide context for understanding the origins and evolution of the political systems that have shaped human societies and institutions throughout history.

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**299.** (A) 2, 1, 4, 3
Arranging historical figures chronologically helps track the evolution of historiography. Banabhatta wrote in the ancient period, followed by Minhaj-us-siraj in the early Delhi Sultanate. Abul Fazl was a central Mughal historian, and Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar was a pioneer of modern scientific research in the nineteenth century. This sequence shows how different eras produced varying narrative styles and approaches to recording the past in India.

**300.** (A) Cyclical theory sees history as repetitive, while materialism sees it as progressive.
The fundamental difference between the cyclical theory and historical materialism lies in their view of the direction of history. The cyclical concept sees history as a series of repeating patterns and phases of growth and decay. In contrast, historical materialism, a Marxist framework, views history as a progressive development through stages driven by economic change. While one emphasizes repetition, the other focuses on progression.

# CHAPTER 02
# Ancient Indian History

**1.** Arrange the following periods in chronological order:
I. Chalcolithic
II. Mesolithic
III. Neolithic
IV. Paleolithic
(A) IV, III, II, I
(B) IV, II, III, I
(C) I, II, III, IV
(D) II, IV, I, III

**2.** Which of the following best defines the concept of 'Bharatvarsha' as mentioned in ancient Indian texts?
(A) The land of the Bharata tribe, eventually denoting the entire subcontinent
(B) A unified political entity governed by a legendary sovereign ruler named Bharata
(C) A spiritual or celestial kingdom vividly described in ancient mythological literature
(D) A limited geographical region strictly confined to the northern Gangetic plains

**3.** According to Vedic thought, what is the concept of 'Rit'?
(A) A standardized set of sacrificial rituals performed by senior priests
(B) The material wealth accumulated by a king through successful warfare
(C) The cosmic order and moral law that governs the entire universe
(D) The ancestral lineage and royal succession of a ruling dynasty

**4.** Match the ancient concepts in List I with their descriptions in List II.
List I:
P. Varnasrama
Q. Purusharthas
R. Rina
S. Samsakaras
List II:
1. The four legitimate goals of human life
2. The three debts an individual owes
3. The system of social classes and stages of life
4. Sacraments or rites of passage marking life's stages
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**5.** Consider the following statements regarding Vedic assemblies and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Sabha in the Vedic period was a council of elders and select elites.
Statement II: The Samiti was a broader general assembly of the common tribesmen.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**6.** Which one of the following is NOT one of the 'Purusharthas' in ancient Indian tradition?
(A) Dharma
(B) Nirvana
(C) Artha
(D) Kama

**7.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The 'Doctrine of Karma' is a fundamental tenet in several Indian philosophical systems.
Reason (R): It posits that every action, intent, and thought of an individual influences their future.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**8.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding the 'Panch Mahayajnas'.
(A) Nri Yajna was exclusively for offering oblations to the king.
(B) They were daily obligatory sacrifices for a householder.
(C) Brahma Yajna involved the study of Vedas.
(D) Pitri Yajna was an offering to the ancestors.

**9.** The concept of 'Bodhisattva' is most centrally associated with which religious tradition?
(A) Jainism
(B) Ajivika
(C) Mahayana Buddhism
(D) Hinayana Buddhism

**10.** Consider the following statements about the 'Samsakaras':
1. They are rites of passage that mark major life transitions from conception to death.
2. The Grihya Sutras are a major source of information about them.
3. Only the first two varnas, Brahmanas and Kshatriyas, were entitled to perform all Samsakaras.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**11.** Who among the following is revered as a 'Tirthankara' in Jainism?
(A) A divine celestial being who resides eternally in the heavens
(B) A highly learned monk who has mastered all sacred texts
(C) The administrative head of a localized monastic order
(D) A 'ford-maker' who has conquered the cycle of rebirth

**12.** Laukik literature, as a source of ancient Indian history, primarily comprises which type of works?
(A) Sacred hymns and sacrificial formulae
(B) Secular works like drama, law-books, and poetry
(C) Commentaries on the Vedas
(D) Biographies of Jaina Tirthankaras

**13.** The Ashokan inscriptions are a prime example of which category of archaeological source?
(A) Numismatics
(B) Monumental remains
(C) Epigraphy
(D) Terracotta art

**14.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: Greco-Roman accounts provide valuable information about ancient India's trade with the West.
Statement II: Megasthenes' 'Indica' is a surviving original text that gives a complete picture of Mauryan administration.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**15.** What was the primary subsistence strategy of human communities during the Paleolithic Age?
(A) Hunting and food gathering
(B) Settled agriculture and animal husbandry
(C) Metalworking and pottery
(D) Maritime trade and fishing

**16.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT pair of a foreign traveller and their origin?
(A) Fa-Hien - Chinese
(B) Xuanzang (Hsuan-Tsang) - Persian
(C) Megasthenes - Greco-Roman
(D) Al-Biruni - Arab

**17.** The transition from food gathering to food production is a key characteristic of which prehistoric period?
(A) Paleolithic
(B) Neolithic
(C) Mesolithic
(D) Chalcolithic

**18.** What is the most distinctive characteristic of the Indus/Saraswati Valley Civilization?
(A) Advanced urban planning and drainage systems
(B) Nomadic pastoralism
(C) Megalithic burials
(D) The use of iron for tools and weapons

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**19.** Identify the correct statement regarding the decline of the Harappan Civilization.
(A) It was caused by a single, universally accepted event, specifically the Aryan invasion.
(B) The decline was remarkably abrupt and completely uniform across all Harappan sites.
(C) Multiple factors, including climate change and floods, are considered potential causes.
(D) The civilization completely vanished without leaving any identifiable cultural traces.

**20.** The term 'Second Urbanisation' in the context of ancient India refers to the emergence of cities in which region?
(A) The Indus Valley during the Bronze Age
(B) The Godavari Valley during the Chalcolithic period
(C) The Kaveri delta during the Sangam age
(D) The Gangetic plains around the 6th century B.C.

**21.** Which Veda is the oldest and consists mainly of hymns in praise of various deities?
(A) Samaveda
(B) Yajurveda
(C) Rigveda
(D) Atharvaveda

**22.** A historian studying the early history of coinage in India would be most interested in which source?
(A) Inscriptions
(B) Numismatics
(C) Monuments
(D) Laukik Literature

**23.** Which of the following was NOT a feature of the Later Vedic period?
(A) The growing importance of the monarch and elaborate royal sacrifices
(B) The emergence of a rigid, hereditary varna system
(C) The geographical shift of the center of civilization to the Gangetic plains
(D) The dominance of female deities in the religious pantheon

**24.** The 'Mahajanapadas' of the 6th century B.C. were primarily:
(A) Sixteen large territorial states, including both monarchies and republics
(B) Small hunter-gatherer bands
(C) A confederation of nomadic tribes
(D) A series of coastal trading posts

**25.** Identify the dynasty to which the Magadhan ruler Bimbisara belonged.
(A) Nanda
(B) Shishunaga
(C) Haryanka
(D) Maurya

**26.** The major teachings of Jainism are centered around which of the following principles?
(A) Ahimsa, Anekantavada, and Aparigraha
(B) The Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path
(C) The concept of a single, creator God
(D) The performance of elaborate Vedic yajnas

**27.** The Hakhamani (Achaemenid) empire, which launched invasions into north-western India, was of what origin?
(A) Greek
(B) Roman
(C) Chinese
(D) Iranian/Persian

**28.** Alexander the Great's invasion of India took place during the reign of which Magadhan dynasty?
(A) Haryanka
(B) Nanda
(C) Shishunaga
(D) Maurya

**29.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Vedas are considered 'Apaurusheya', meaning not of human creation.
Statement II: The Vedas are also known as 'Shruti' as they were transmitted orally through generations.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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**30.** Which of the following is the most appropriate description of a 'Republic' (Gana-sangha) in ancient India?
(A) A state ruled by a hereditary monarch with absolute power
(B) A territory governed by a representative of a foreign empire
(C) A philosophical school with no political structure
(D) A state governed by an assembly rather than a single king

**31.** An archaeologist discovers a site with microliths, evidence of domestication of animals, and early pottery. To which period would this site most likely be assigned?
(A) Mesolithic
(B) Paleolithic
(C) Chalcolithic
(D) Iron Age

**32.** The concept of the three debts or 'Trini Rinas' includes all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Deva Rina (debt to the Gods)
(B) Raja Rina (debt to the king)
(C) Rishi Rina (debt to the sages)
(D) Pitri Rina (debt to the ancestors)

**33.** Which of the following literary sources is an example of 'Laukik literature'?
(A) The Rigveda Samhita
(B) The Arthashastra of Kautilya
(C) The Brahmanas
(D) The Upanishads

**34.** Match the foreign travellers in List I with their associated works or descriptions in List II.
List I:
P. Megasthenes
Q. Fa-Hien
R. Xuanzang
S. Al-Biruni
List II:
1. 'Si-Yu-Ki' (Record of the Western Regions)
2. 'Tahqiq-i-Hind' (Kitab-ul-Hind)
3. 'Indica'
4. 'Record of the Buddhist Kingdoms'
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**35.** The study of coins, including their metallic composition, minting techniques, and the symbols on them, is known as:
(A) Epigraphy
(B) Paleography
(C) Numismatics
(D) Archaeology

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**36.** What was the primary impact of the widespread use of iron technology during the 'Second Urbanisation'?
(A) Decline in trade and commerce
(B) A shift back to a barter economy
(C) The strengthening of small, tribal republics against monarchies
(D) Increased deforestation and expansion of agriculture

**37.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The social structure in the Later Vedic period became more complex and rigid than in the Rigvedic period.
Reason (R): The Varna system, based on birth, became firmly established, and the power of the Brahmanas and Kshatriyas increased significantly.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**38.** Which Buddhist concept refers to a being who, out of great compassion, delays their own entry into nirvana to help all sentient beings achieve enlightenment?
(A) Tirthankara
(B) Bodhisattva
(C) Arhat
(D) Pratyekabuddha

**39.** Identify the incorrect statement concerning the teachings of Buddhism.
(A) The ultimate goal is to attain Nirvana, the cessation of suffering.
(B) It propounds the 'Four Noble Truths' concerning suffering.
(C) The path to end suffering is the 'Noble Eightfold Path'.

(D) It accepts the authority of the Vedas and the caste system.

**40.** Consider the following statements regarding the rise of the Magadha empire:
1. Its strategic location with rivers providing transport and alluvium was a key factor.
2. It possessed rich iron ore deposits, which were crucial for weapons and agricultural tools.
3. The early Magadhan rulers were all democratically elected by a council.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**41.** The Persian king who was the first to successfully invade a part of North-Western India and annex it as a satrapy of his empire was:
(A) Cyrus-II (Kurush)
(B) Xerxes
(C) Darius-I
(D) Darius-III

**42.** Based on the historical description provided below, answer the following question:
*An inscription found on a rock pillar is written in Brahmi script and Prakrit language. It speaks of a king's remorse after a great war and his subsequent adoption of a policy of 'Dhamma-vijaya' (conquest by piety). This inscription is most likely to be attributed to which category of historical source?*
(A) A Mauryan royal edict
(B) A religious text describing a mythical king
(C) A land grant charter from the Gupta period
(D) A biographical account by a court poet

**43.** Which of the following is a key difference between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods?
(A) Paleolithic people used metal tools, while Neolithic people used stone.
(B) Paleolithic society was urban, while Neolithic society was nomadic.
(C) Paleolithic art is absent, while Neolithic art is abundant.
(D) Paleolithic people were hunter-gatherers, while Neolithic people began agriculture.

**44.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Harappan civilization had extensive trade contacts with Mesopotamia.
Statement II: Harappan seals have been discovered at various Mesopotamian archaeological sites.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**45.** The Vedic texts are broadly divided into two categories: Shruti and Smriti. Which of the following belongs to the Smriti category?
(A) The Samhitas
(B) The Brahmanas
(C) The Dharmasutras
(D) The Upanishads

**46.** What was the most significant political development of the Later Vedic Age?
(A) The decline of kingship and the rise of republics
(B) The disappearance of the Sabha and Samiti
(C) The establishment of a unified, pan-Indian empire
(D) The emergence of large territorial kingdoms or 'Janapadas'

**47.** In the context of the Mahajanapadas, what were 'punch-marked coins'?
(A) The earliest form of coinage in India, made of silver with punched symbols
(B) Gold coins issued specifically by various foreign invaders
(C) Clay tablets used for decentralized barter trade systems
(D) Roman coins found along the international trade routes

**48.** The final Tirthankara in the Jaina tradition is:
(A) Rishabhanatha
(B) Mahavira
(C) Parshvanatha
(D) Siddhartha Gautama

**49.** One of the major impacts of Alexander's invasion on India was:
(A) The permanent establishment of Greek rule over the entire subcontinent

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(B) The opening of direct routes between India and Europe, fostering trade
(C) The complete destruction of Indian culture
(D) The immediate adoption of the Greek language throughout India

**50.** Which of the following is NOT one of the 'Four Asramas' (stages of life) in the Varnasrama system?
(A) Shudra
(B) Brahmacharya
(C) Grihastha
(D) Vanaprastha

**51.** The study of inscriptions is known as:
(A) Numismatics
(B) Paleography
(C) Epigraphy
(D) Cartography

**52.** The term 'Chalcolithic' refers to a period characterized by the use of:
(A) Only stone tools
(B) Only iron tools
(C) Bronze and iron tools
(D) Copper and stone tools

**53.** The Great Bath, a significant structure of the Indus Valley Civilization, was discovered at which site?
(A) Harappa
(B) Lothal
(C) Mohenjo-daro
(D) Kalibangan

**54.** The political organization of the Rigvedic Aryans was primarily based on:
(A) A vast, centralized empire
(B) A tribal system, with the 'Jana' as the largest political unit
(C) City-states ruled by merchant councils
(D) A theocracy ruled by a council of priests

**55.** Ajatashatru, a prominent ruler of the Magadhan empire, belonged to which dynasty?
(A) Shishunaga
(B) Nanda
(C) Maurya
(D) Haryanka

**56.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: Jainism advocates the path of extreme austerity and penance to achieve liberation.
Statement II: Buddhism advocates the 'Madhyama Marga' or the Middle Path, avoiding extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**57.** The battle between Alexander the Great and King Porus (Puru) was fought on the banks of which river?
(A) Indus
(B) Chenab (Acesines)
(C) Jhelum (Hydaspes)
(D) Ravi (Hydraotes)

**58.** Which of the 'Panch Mahayajnas' involved offering oblations to all created beings?
(A) Bhuta Yajna
(B) Brahma Yajna
(C) Deva Yajna
(D) Pitri Yajna

**59.** The Chinese traveller Xuanzang (Hsuan-Tsang) visited India primarily to:
(A) Establish trade relations with the Gupta empire
(B) Form a military alliance against the Hunas
(C) Document the flora and fauna of India
(D) Study at Nalanda University and collect Buddhist scriptures

**60.** Which of the following is a defining characteristic of the Mesolithic period?
(A) The use of large, heavy hand-axes
(B) The appearance of small stone tools known as microliths
(C) The first use of iron
(D) The construction of large urban centers

**61.** Arrange the following Magadhan dynasties in chronological order of their rule:
I. Nanda
II. Haryanka
III. Shishunaga

NODIA

(A) I, II, III
(B) II, I, III
(C) II, III, I
(D) III, II, I

**62.** The survival of Harappan cultural elements is seen in all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The worship of a prototype of Shiva (Pashupati)
(B) The veneration of the Pipal tree and certain animals
(C) The use of standardized weights and measures in some subsequent cultures
(D) The continued use of the Harappan script in later periods

**63.** The concept of 'Triratna' or the Three Jewels in Jainism consists of:
(A) Right Faith, Right Knowledge, Right Conduct
(B) Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha
(C) Non-violence, Non-possession, Non-absolutism
(D) Vows of celibacy, truth, and non-stealing

**64.** Match the Vedic terms in List I with their meanings in List II.
List I:
P. Jana
Q. Rajan
R. Purohita
S. Gramani
List II:
1. Tribal chief or King
2. Head of the village
3. The tribe or people
4. The chief priest
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**65.** What does the term 'Second Urbanisation' signify in the historical context of India?
(A) The re-emergence of cities in the Indus Valley after a period of decline
(B) The development of urban centres in the Gangetic plains after the collapse of the Harappan culture
(C) The growth of port cities in South India during the Sangam age
(D) The establishment of new capitals by the Delhi Sultanate

**66.** Which one of the following statements about literary sources is correct?
(A) Religious literature can provide insights into the social, religious, and cultural life of a period.
(B) Religious literature is always historically accurate and free from bias.
(C) Laukik literature, such as plays and poems, has no value as a historical source.
(D) All ancient manuscripts have been deciphered and translated.

**67.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The sixteenth Mahajanapadas included both monarchical and republican forms of government.
Reason (R): The 'Gana-sanghas' like those of the Vajjis and Mallas demonstrated the existence of non-monarchical polities in ancient India.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**68.** The primary deity of the Rigvedic people was:
(A) Shiva
(B) Vishnu
(C) Brahma
(D) Indra

**69.** The first Persian ruler to lead an expedition into India, though he may not have annexed territory, was:
(A) Darius-I
(B) Xerxes
(C) Cyrus-II (Kurush)
(D) Artaxerxes

**70.** Consider the following statements about the Vedas:
1. The Samaveda is a collection of melodies and chants derived primarily from the Rigveda.
2. The Yajurveda deals exclusively with rules for sacrifices and is entirely in prose.

3. The Atharvaveda contains charms and spells to ward off evils and diseases.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 3 only

**71.** The 'Doctrine of Karma' is a philosophical concept that is central to which of the following religious traditions?
(A) Buddhism and Jainism only
(B) Hinduism only
(C) Zoroastrianism and Hinduism
(D) Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism

**72.** From a historical perspective, what is the primary significance of monuments as an archaeological source?
(A) They reflect the artistic and architectural sentiments of their time.
(B) They provide the complete political history of a dynasty.
(C) They are the only source for understanding the economy of ancient societies.
(D) They offer detailed biographical information about common people.

**73.** The shift from a pastoral economy in the Rigvedic period to a settled, agrarian economy in the Later Vedic period was facilitated by:
(A) The widespread introduction of a standardized gold coinage system
(B) A massive and rapid increase in maritime foreign trade
(C) The extensive use of iron for clearing forests and making ploughshares
(D) The significant decline in the overall ritual importance of the cow

**74.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mahajanapada of Avanti was divided into two parts with capitals at Ujjaini and Mahishmati.
Statement II: The Mahajanapada of Gandhara was located in the extreme west, in modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**75.** The founder of the Nanda dynasty, often described as the 'first empire builder of India', was:
(B) Shishunaga
(C) Udayin
(D) Mahapadma Nanda

**76.** The 'Age of Sutras' refers to a period characterized by the composition of which kind of literature?
(A) Lyrical poetry and epics
(B) Condensed, aphoristic texts summarizing ritual and philosophy
(C) Detailed commentaries on the Vedas
(D) Buddhist Jataka tales

**77.** An immediate and direct political consequence of Alexander's invasion of North-West India was:
(A) The establishment of a unified Mauryan Empire by Chandragupta Maurya
(B) The conversion of the Indian population to Greek polytheism
(C) The destruction of fragmented states, paving the way for unification
(D) The start of a 300-year period of Greek rule over Magadha

**78.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about the characteristics of the Indus Valley Civilization?
(A) The cities were built on a grid pattern with streets cutting at right angles.
(B) A highly developed system of weights and measures was in use.
(C) The people cultivated wheat, barley, and cotton.
(D) Iron was extensively used for making agricultural tools and weapons.

**79.** The concept of 'Rina' (debt) in Vedic tradition implies that an individual is born with obligations towards:
(A) Gods, sages, and ancestors
(B) Only one's parents and teachers
(C) Only the king and the state
(D) The self and the attainment of personal wealth

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**80.** A historian wants to study the development of early agricultural communities in South Asia. Which period would be the primary focus of this research?
(A) Upper Paleolithic
(B) Neolithic and Chalcolithic
(C) Mesolithic
(D) The Iron Age

**81.** Which of the following is a distinguishing feature of a republican Mahajanapada (Gana-sangha)?
(A) The king's son automatically inherited the throne.
(B) Decisions were made in an assembly by members of the Kshatriya clan.
(C) Power was vested in a single, absolute ruler.
(D) The territory was directly administered by the Magadhan emperor.

**82.** The 'Record of the Buddhist Kingdoms' providing a valuable account of the Gupta period was written by which Chinese pilgrim?
(A) Fa-Hien
(B) Xuanzang
(C) I-tsing
(D) Wang Xuan-ce

**83.** The main philosophical teachings of the Upanishads revolve around the concepts of:
(A) The efficacy of elaborate sacrificial rituals
(B) The divine right of kings
(C) Atman (the individual soul) and Brahman (the ultimate reality)
(D) The rules of social conduct and caste duties

**84.** Identify the correct pair.
(A) Harappa - Dockyard
(B) Mohenjo-daro - Terracotta plough
(C) Lothal - Great Granary
(D) Kalibangan - Ploughed field surface

**85.** Mahapadma Nanda is often referred to by the title 'Sarva-kshatrantaka', which means:
(A) Lord of all the earth
(B) The second Parashurama
(C) Destroyer of all Kshatriyas
(D) Son of an unknown father

**86.** Which of the following is NOT a part of the 'Eightfold Path' (Ashtangika Marga) in Buddhism?
(A) Right View
(B) Right Devotion
(C) Right Livelihood
(D) Right Effort

**87.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Persian invasion led to the introduction of the Aramaic script, which later evolved into the Kharosthi script in North-West India.
Statement II: The Persian concept of a divine monarch had no influence on subsequent Indian polity, especially the Mauryas.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**88.** The four-fold division of society (Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra) is mentioned for the first time in which text?
(A) The Purusha Sukta in the 10th mandala of the Rigveda
(B) The early mandalas of the Rigveda
(C) The Upanishads
(D) The Arthashastra

**89.** A key environmental factor often cited in theories about the origin of the Indus Valley Civilization is:
(A) The onset of a major ice age
(B) The arid conditions of the Thar desert
(C) The fertile environment of the Indus river and its tributaries
(D) The dense, impenetrable forests of the Gangetic plain

**90.** The concept of 'Anekantavada', or the doctrine of the many-sidedness of reality, is a core philosophical principle of:
(A) Jainism
(B) Buddhism
(C) Ajivika school
(D) Charvaka school

**91.** The Sabha and Samiti of the Vedic period can be best described as:

(A) Military regiments
(B) Tax collection agencies
(C) Sacrificial altars
(D) Popular deliberative assemblies

**92.** Read the historical description provided below and answer the following question:
*A Greco-Roman text from the 1st century CE describes in detail the ports, commodities, and sea routes for trade between the Roman Empire and India. The text mentions ports like Muziris and Barygaza. What is this text?*
(A) Megasthenes' Indica
(B) The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea
(C) Pliny's Natural History
(D) Ptolemy's Geographia

**93.** The transition from the Pre-Vedic to the Later Vedic period saw a decline in the importance of which deity?
(A) Prajapati
(B) Vishnu
(C) Indra
(D) Rudra

**94.** Match the Mahajanapadas in List I with their capitals in List II.
List I:
P. Kashi
Q. Kosala
R. Anga
S. Vatsa
List II:
1. Champa
2. Kausambi
3. Varanasi
4. Sravasti
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**95.** Who was the founder of the Shishunaga dynasty who temporarily shifted the capital from Pataliputra to Vaishali?
(A) Shishunaga
(B) Kalasoka
(C) Udayin
(D) Bimbisara

**96.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about Jainism?
(A) It postulates the existence of an eternal soul (Jiva) in all living beings.
(B) It completely rejects the Doctrine of Karma.
(C) The path to liberation involves the 'Triratna' or Three Jewels.
(D) It emphasizes Sallekhana, or fasting unto death, as a legitimate practice for monks.

**97.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Alexander the Great's army refused to advance further east beyond the river Beas (Hyphasis).
Reason (R): The soldiers were exhausted from years of campaigning, homesick, and intimidated by reports of the powerful Nanda army further east.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**98.** The 'Upanayana' ceremony, a significant 'Samsakara', marks:
(A) The initiation of a boy into the stage of studentship (Brahmacharya)
(B) The naming of a child
(C) The first intake of solid food
(D) The marriage of an individual

**99.** The earliest evidence of agriculture in the Indian subcontinent comes from which site?
(A) Harappa
(B) Inamgaon
(C) Mehrgarh
(D) Burzahom

**100.** Consider the following statements about archaeological sources:
1. Inscriptions are generally considered more reliable than literary sources because they are often contemporary and less prone to interpolation.
2. The study of coins helps in understanding the economic history, extent of an empire, and trade relations.
3. Monuments like stupas and temples provide

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no information about the religious beliefs of the period.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**101.** What is the central theme of the Brahmanas, a category of Vedic literature?

(A) Philosophical speculation on Atman and Brahman
(B) Myths and legends about gods and demons
(C) Detailed explanations of rituals and symbolism
(D) Laws of inheritance and property

**102.** The decline of the Indus Valley Civilization is attributed to several factors. Which of the following is considered an ecological factor?

(A) Aryan invasion
(B) Tectonic shifts and changes in river courses
(C) Social breakdown
(D) A decline in trade with Mesopotamia

**103.** In the context of the Later Vedic economy, the term 'Nishka' which in the Rigveda meant a gold ornament, came to signify:

(A) A measure of land
(B) A type of pottery
(C) A tax paid in kind
(D) A unit of currency

**104.** Which Mahajanapada was a confederacy of eight clans, with the Lichchhavis being the most powerful?

(A) Vajji
(B) Magadha
(C) Kasi
(D) Avanti

**105.** The 'Four Noble Truths' of Buddhism deal fundamentally with the problem of:

(A) Social inequality
(B) Political anarchy
(C) Suffering (Dukkha) and its cessation
(D) The nature of the soul

**106.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.

Statement I: The epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata, are considered part of Shruti literature.

Statement II: They reflect the social, political, and religious conditions of the Later Vedic and post-Vedic periods, although they were compiled over centuries.

(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**107.** The Gandhara School of Art, which flourished in North-West India, was a direct outcome of the cultural fusion between India and:

(A) Persia
(B) China
(C) Arabia
(D) Greece

**108.** The concept of 'Purusharthas' (Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha) represents:

(A) The four varnas of society
(B) The four legitimate aims of human existence
(C) The four stages of life
(D) The four Vedas

**109.** Which traveller's account is a crucial source for information on the reign of Harshavardhana and the functioning of Nalanda University?

(A) Fa-Hien
(B) Megasthenes
(C) Xuanzang
(D) Al-Biruni

**110.** The prehistoric period is distinguished from the protohistoric period based on:

(A) The use of stone tools versus metal tools
(B) Hunting-gathering versus agricultural economy
(C) Nomadic lifestyle versus settled lifestyle
(D) The absence versus the presence of a writing system

**111.** Which of the following Harappan sites is located in present-day Gujarat and is famous for its dockyard?

(A) Lothal
(B) Harappa
(C) Mohenjo-daro
(D) Rakhigarhi

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**112.** The term 'Gotra' in the Later Vedic period originally meant 'cowshed' but later came to signify:
(A) A unit of land measurement
(B) Lineage or descent from a common ancestor
(C) A trade guild
(D) A type of tax

**113.** The main cause of the conflict between Magadha and Avanti in the 6th-5th centuries BCE was:
(A) Control over the iron ore deposits and trade routes
(B) Religious differences
(C) A matrimonial dispute
(D) A disagreement over the interpretation of Vedic texts

**114.** The 'Middle Path' (Madhyama Pratipada) is a central doctrine of which religion?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Jainism
(C) Ajivika
(D) Hinduism

**115.** Darius I's inscriptions, such as the Behistun inscription, are important for Indian history because they:
(A) Provide a complete list of the sixteen Mahajanapadas
(B) Describe the teachings of Buddha and Mahavira
(C) Mention the Indus region as part of the Persian Empire
(D) Give a detailed account of Alexander's invasion

**116.** Which of the following is NOT one of the 'Trini Rinas' or three debts?
(A) Deva Rina
(B) Pitri Rina
(C) Rishi Rina
(D) Guru Rina

**117.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding a prehistoric site and its characteristic feature.
(A) Bhimbetka - Paleolithic and Mesolithic rock shelters and paintings
(B) Burzahom - Pit-dwellings and evidence of dog burial with masters
(C) Mehrgarh - Earliest evidence of rice cultivation
(D) Inamgaon - Large Chalcolithic settlement with evidence of house plans

**118.** The Pashupati seal, depicting a seated figure surrounded by animals, was found at which Indus Valley site?
(A) Lothal
(B) Mohenjo-daro
(C) Harappa
(D) Dholavira

**119.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Rigvedic economy was primarily pastoral and agricultural.
Statement II: The cow was the most important form of wealth, and many wars were fought for the sake of cattle.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**120.** Which Magadhan king is said to have used innovative military weapons like the 'rathamusala' (chariot with mace) and 'mahasilakantaka' (engine for catapulting large stones)?
(A) Ajatashatru
(B) Bimbisara
(C) Mahapadma Nanda
(D) Dhana Nanda

**121.** Arrange the following events in chronological order:
I. Composition of the Rigveda
II. Beginning of the Iron Age in the Gangetic plains
III. Rise of the Mahajanapadas
IV. Mature Harappan Phase
(A) IV, I, II, III
(B) I, IV, II, III
(C) IV, II, I, III
(D) I, II, IV, III

**122.** The doctrine of dependent origination or 'Pratītyasamutpāda' is a core philosophical teaching of:
(A) Buddhism
(B) Jainism
(C) Charvaka

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(D) Samkhya

**123.** The Kharosthi script, used in North-Western India, was derived from which script introduced during the Persian invasions?
(A) Cuneiform
(B) Hieroglyphic
(C) Brahmi
(D) Aramaic

**124.** Match the types of literature in List I with the examples in List II.
List I:
P. Sutra Literature
Q. Epic Literature
R. Early Buddhist Literature
S. Laukik Literature
List II:
1. Mahabharata
2. Arthashastra
3. Tripitakas
4. Grihya Sutras
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**125.** The concept of 'Bodhisattva' underwent significant development and gained prominence with the rise of which school of Buddhism?
(A) Theravada
(B) Hinayana
(C) Mahayana
(D) Vajrayana

**126.** A historian studying the day-to-day life, domestic rituals, and rites of passage of an ancient Indian householder would find which texts most useful?
(A) The Samhitas
(B) The Aranyakas
(C) The Shrauta Sutras
(D) The Grihya Sutras

**127.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The Harappan script has not yet been deciphered.
Reason (R): The inscriptions are very short, usually on seals, and there is a lack of bilingual texts.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**128.** What was the most important function of the 'Purohita' in the Vedic period?
(A) To lead the army in battle
(B) To advise the king and perform major sacrifices
(C) To collect taxes from the people
(D) To administer justice in the village council

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**129.** The victory of which king over the Lichchhavis of Vaishali marked a significant step in the expansion of the Magadhan empire?
(A) Bimbisara
(B) Ajatashatru
(C) Shishunaga
(D) Mahapadma Nanda

**130.** Consider the following statements regarding the 'Varnasrama' system:
1. 'Varna' refers to the four-fold social classification.
2. 'Asrama' refers to the four stages of an individual's life.
3. The system was fully developed and rigidly followed during the Rigvedic period.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**131.** The Jaina religious texts, which form its canon, are collectively known as:
(A) Pitakas
(B) Gathas
(C) Agamas
(D) Zend Avesta

**132.** The term 'satrap system', an administrative innovation involving provincial governors, was introduced into India's political landscape as a result of contact with the:
(A) Greeks
(B) Romans
(C) Chinese

(D) Persians

**133.** What is the defining characteristic of Protohistory?
(A) A period for which written records exist and have been deciphered.
(B) The period before the invention of writing.
(C) A period for which written records exist, but have not yet been deciphered.
(D) The period characterized by the exclusive use of stone tools.

**134.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: Al-Biruni's 'Kitab-ul-Hind' is a critical and comprehensive account of Indian society, sciences, and philosophy in the 11th century.
Statement II: Al-Biruni was a Greek ambassador to the Mauryan court.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**135.** The Neolithic Revolution is primarily associated with:
(A) The invention of fire
(B) The development of urban civilizations
(C) The first use of iron
(D) The beginning of agriculture and settled life

**136.** Which of the following is NOT a major characteristic of the Mature Harappan phase?
(A) Construction of megalithic tombs
(B) Well-planned cities with grid layout
(C) Use of burnt bricks in construction
(D) An undeciphered pictographic script

**137.** The term 'Sreni' in the context of the economic growth during the Mahajanapada period referred to:
(A) A type of coin
(B) A land revenue tax
(C) A guild of merchants or craftsmen
(D) A military commander

**138.** The First Buddhist Council was convened immediately after the death of the Buddha under the patronage of which ruler?
(A) Ajatashatru
(B) Bimbisara
(C) Ashoka
(D) Kanishka

**139.** The most significant long-term impact of Alexander's invasion on India was:
(A) The imposition of the Greek language
(B) The introduction of democracy
(C) The unification of North India under Mauryan rule
(D) The establishment of a direct link between India and the West

**140.** Which of the following concepts refers to the cosmic and moral order that the Vedic gods were believed to uphold?
(A) Yajna
(B) Rit
(C) Karma
(D) Samsara

**141.** The Hathigumpha Inscription at Udayagiri is a primary source of information for the reign of which king?
(A) Ashoka
(B) Samudragupta
(C) Kharavela of Kalinga
(D) Pulakesin II

**142.** A key feature that differentiates the Chalcolithic culture from the Neolithic culture is the:
(A) Practice of agriculture
(B) Use of pottery
(C) Domestication of animals
(D) Beginning of the use of metal, specifically copper

**143.** Which of the following provides the most convincing evidence of maritime trade during the Harappan period?
(A) The discovery of a large brick dockyard at Lothal
(B) The representation of a ship on a seal
(C) The presence of Mesopotamian texts mentioning trade with 'Meluhha'
(D) The standardized system of weights and measures

**144.** The main form of government during the Rigvedic period was:
(A) A hereditary and territorial monarchy

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(B) A tribal chieftainship where the 'Rajan' had limited powers
(C) An oligarchy of wealthy merchants
(D) A theocracy ruled by the Purohita

**145.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Nanda dynasty was overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya with the help of Chanakya.
Statement II: The last Nanda ruler, Dhana Nanda, was unpopular due to his oppressive tax regime and arrogant nature.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**146.** In Jaina philosophy, a 'Tirthankara' is one who:
(A) Has conquered the cycle of rebirth and shows the path to others
(B) Is a disciple of Mahavira
(C) Is a learned monk
(D) Is the head of a Jaina monastery

**147.** What was the 'Age of the Sutras'?
(A) The period of the composition of the Vedic Samhitas
(B) The period when epics like Ramayana were first written
(C) A period marked by aphoristic manuals on ritual and law
(D) The era of the great commentaries on Buddhist texts

**148.** The Achaemenid (Persian) ruler Xerxes is known in the context of Indian history for:
(A) Conquering the Magadhan empire
(B) Leading the first Persian expedition into India
(C) Establishing diplomatic relations with the Mauryas
(D) Employing Indian infantry and cavalry in his war against the Greeks

**149.** The performance of 'Panch Mahayajnas' was considered an obligatory duty for which 'Asrama'?
(A) Brahmacharya (student)
(B) Vanaprastha (forest-dweller)
(C) Grihastha (householder)
(D) Sannyasa (renunciant)

**150.** Megasthenes, the Greek ambassador who wrote 'Indica', was sent to the court of which Indian ruler?
(A) Ashoka
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Bimbisara
(D) Dhana Nanda

**151.** A key feature of the Mesolithic Age, distinguishing it from the preceding Paleolithic Age, was:
(A) The use of fire
(B) The practice of burial
(C) Cave paintings
(D) The creation of microliths

**152.** Which of the following is NOT a prominent feature of the urban centres of the Indus Valley Civilization?
(A) The widespread presence of large temples and palaces
(B) A citadel or acropolis, and a lower town
(C) An advanced drainage and sanitation system
(D) The use of standardized burnt bricks

**153.** The Battle of the Ten Kings (Dasarajna Yuddha), mentioned in the Rigveda, was fought on the banks of which river?
(A) Saraswati
(B) Indus (Sindhu)
(C) Parushni (Ravi)
(D) Vitasta (Jhelum)

**154.** Match the ancient texts in List I with their general subjects in List II.
List I:
P. Grihya Sutras
Q. Shrauta Sutras
R. Dharma Sutras
S. Sulba Sutras
List II:
1. Rules for the construction of fire-altars, early geometry
2. Laws, customs, and duties for different varnas
3. Rules for large, public Vedic sacrifices
4. Rules for domestic ceremonies and rites of passage

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(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**155.** The city of Pataliputra was founded at the confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers by which Haryanka ruler?
(A) Bimbisara
(B) Ajatashatru
(C) Nagadasaka
(D) Udayin

**156.** The central idea of Buddhism's 'Four Noble Truths' is that life is suffering, and this suffering is caused by:
(A) The will of God
(B) Desire and attachment
(C) Social injustice
(D) Past karma which cannot be altered

**157.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The sixth century BCE in India is often called an age of 'religious revolution'.
Reason (R): This period saw the emergence and growth of numerous heterodox sects, including Buddhism and Jainism, which challenged the authority of the Vedas and the dominance of the Brahmanical priesthood.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**158.** The last Achaemenid ruler of Persia, whose defeat by Alexander the Great ended Persian control over its Indian satrapies, was:
(A) Darius I
(B) Xerxes
(C) Cyrus II
(D) Darius III

**159.** The 'Samskara' of 'Vivaha' refers to which rite of passage?
(A) Marriage
(B) The sacred thread ceremony
(C) The first feeding of solid food
(D) The funeral rites

**160.** Consider the following statements about the political institutions of the Vedic period:
1. The Rigvedic 'Rajan' was an autocratic ruler with absolute power over his subjects.
2. The 'Sabha' was an assembly of elder and prominent members of the tribe.
3. In the Later Vedic period, the importance of assemblies like Sabha and Samiti declined as the king's power grew.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**161.** An important source for the history of Arab navigation and trade with India, though written by a Turkish admiral, is the 'Mirat-ul-Memalik' by:
(A) Al-Masudi
(B) Sidi Ali Reis
(C) Ibn Battuta
(D) Al-Idrisi

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**162.** Man and his environment is a key theme in prehistory. The geological epoch that covers most of the human prehistoric period and is characterized by a series of ice ages is the:
(A) Pleistocene
(B) Holocene
(C) Pliocene
(D) Miocene

**163.** The term 'survival and importance' in the context of the Indus/Saraswati Valley Civilization implies that:
(A) The civilization has continued uninterrupted to the present day.
(B) The Harappans migrated and re-established their cities elsewhere.
(C) Certain elements of Harappan culture continued in later Indian civilization.
(D) The Harappan people survived by completely abandoning their culture and adopting Vedic ways.

**164.** The literary evidence for the Vedic Age primarily comes from:
(A) The Puranas and Epics
(B) Jaina and Buddhist literature
(C) Inscriptions and coins from that period

(D) The corpus of Vedic texts including the Samhitas

**165.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mahajanapada of Magadha was landlocked and had no access to the sea.
Statement II: The Mahajanapada of Anga, with its capital at Champa, was located on the river Ganga and was an important center for riverine trade.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**166.** The concept of 'Anatta' (or 'Anatman') in Buddhism refers to the doctrine of:
(A) Non-violence
(B) No-self or no-soul
(C) The impermanence of all things
(D) The existence of an eternal, unchanging soul

**167.** One of the main reasons for the success of Magadha was its control over the rich iron ore deposits located near present-day:
(A) Punjab
(B) Rajasthan
(C) The Deccan Plateau
(D) Southern Bihar and Jharkhand

**168.** Which of the following is an example of an archaeological source of history?
(A) Ashokan edicts
(B) The Rigveda
(C) The Arthashastra
(D) The Puranas

**169.** What is the most appropriate definition of 'Bharatvarsha' from an ancient ideological perspective?
(A) The political territory of the Mauryan empire
(B) The region between the Himalayas and the Vindhyas
(C) The entire Indian subcontinent, conceived as a distinct unit
(D) The land inhabited only by the speakers of Indo-Aryan languages

**170.** Which of the following is NOT one of the 'Purusharthas' or goals of human life?
(A) Rina (Debt)
(B) Dharma (Righteous Conduct)
(C) Artha (Economic Pursuits)
(D) Moksha (Liberation)

**171.** The two most important assemblies in the Rigvedic period, which exercised some control over the king, were:
(A) Sreni and Puga
(B) Gana and Sangha
(C) Vidatha and Parishad
(D) Sabha and Samiti

**172.** The Jaina Tirthankara Parshvanatha is traditionally believed to have preached four great vows (Chaturyama). Which vow did Mahavira add to make the five great vows (Pancha Mahavratas)?
(A) Ahimsa (Non-violence)
(B) Brahmacharya (Celibacy)
(C) Satya (Truthfulness)
(D) Asteya (Non-stealing)

**173.** Based on the archaeological findings provided below, answer the following question:
*An archaeologist is excavating a site in the Gangetic plains and finds Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) pottery, punch-marked coins, and structural remains of a fortified settlement. This site most likely belongs to which period?*
(A) The Mature Harappan Phase
(B) The Late Vedic Period
(C) The Mahajanapada Period
(D) The Kushan Period

**174.** The invasion of North-West India by Darius I in the late 6th century BCE is attested by:
(A) The accounts of Megasthenes
(B) Buddhist Jataka tales
(C) Persian inscriptions like the Behistun inscription
(D) The Hathigumpha inscription

**175.** The concept of 'Grihastha Asrama' refers to the stage of life of a:
(A) Householder
(B) Student
(C) Forest-dweller
(D) Renunciant

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**176.** Which of the following is a correct statement regarding the accounts of foreign travellers?
(A) They are always objective and free from cultural bias.
(B) Greco-Roman accounts often highlight India's wealth and trade.
(C) Chinese travellers like Fa-Hien were primarily interested in politics.
(D) Arab writers only focused on the military aspects of India.

**177.** The 'Fertile Crescent' model for the origin of agriculture is often contrasted with the indigenous development of agriculture in regions like the Indian subcontinent, with early evidence found at:
(A) Mehrgarh
(B) Lothal
(C) Kalibangan
(D) Inamgaon

**178.** A distinguishing feature of the Dholavira site of the Indus Valley Civilization is:
(A) A unique and complex water harvesting system
(B) The evidence of a ploughed field
(C) A large brick dockyard
(D) A bronze dancing girl statuette

**179.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Later Vedic period witnessed a significant increase in the power and rituals associated with kingship.
Statement II: Elaborate royal consecration ceremonies like Rajasuya, Vajapeya, and Ashvamedha became common.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**180.** The capital of the powerful Mahajanapada of Kosala, ruled by King Prasenajit, a contemporary of the Buddha, was:
(A) Kausambi
(B) Varanasi
(C) Rajagriha
(D) Sravasti

**181.** Arrange the following foreign invasions of India in chronological order:
I. Alexander the Great
II. Darius I
III. Indo-Greeks
IV. Sakas
(A) II, I, III, IV
(B) I, II, III, IV
(C) II, III, I, IV
(D) I, III, II, IV

**182.** The 'Tripitaka', the sacred canon of Buddhism, is composed of:
(A) Digha, Majjhima, and Samyutta Nikayas
(B) Vinaya, Sutta, and Abhidhamma Pitakas
(C) Mahavastu, Lalitavistara, and Buddhacharita
(D) Jatakas, Milindapanha, and Dipavamsa

**183.** The most significant result of the Persian contact with India was:
(A) The introduction of the Sanskrit language
(B) The beginning of maritime trade with Rome
(C) The conquest of the Magadhan Empire
(D) The introduction of the Kharosthi script in the northwest

**184.** Match the prehistoric periods in List I with their key tools or technologies in List II.
List I:
P. Paleolithic
Q. Mesolithic
R. Neolithic
S. Chalcolithic
List II:
1. Polished stone tools, Celts
2. Copper tools alongside stone tools
3. Hand-axes, Cleavers, Flake tools
4. Microliths
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

**185.** The philosophical treatises of the Vedic tradition, often called 'Vedanta' or the 'end of the Vedas', are the:
(A) Samhitas
(B) Brahmanas
(C) Upanishads
(D) Aranyakas

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**186.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement regarding the causes of the rise of Magadha?
(A) Strong support from the powerful republics of the Vajjis and Mallas
(B) Fertile alluvial soil of the Gangetic plains providing agricultural surplus
(C) Strategic, defensible capital at Rajagriha, surrounded by five hills
(D) A series of ambitious and ruthless rulers

**187.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Buddhism and Jainism found significant patronage from the merchant and artisan classes.
Reason (R): The new religions' emphasis on non-violence was conducive to trade, and they offered a higher social status to these groups.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**188.** Which ancient Indian concept denotes the inescapable consequences of one's actions, shaping their destiny in this life and the next?
(A) Rit
(B) Karma
(C) Yajna
(D) Rina

**189.** Among the archaeological sources, numismatics is the study of:
(A) Inscriptions
(B) Monuments
(C) Coins
(D) Pottery

**190.** Consider the following statements about the Harappan Civilization:
1. The use of iron was widespread, especially for agricultural implements.
2. The civilization had a pictographic script that has been successfully deciphered.
3. Urban planning, including a grid layout and a sophisticated drainage system, was a key feature.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 3 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**191.** The main difference between the social structure of the Rigvedic period and the Later Vedic period was:
(A) The Rigvedic social divisions were flexible, whereas the Later Vedic period saw a rigid hereditary varna system.
(B) The Rigvedic period had a rigid caste system, which became flexible in the Later Vedic period.
(C) The concept of varna was absent in the Rigvedic period and was introduced only in the Later Vedic period.
(D) The Shudras held a high position in the Rigvedic period, which declined in the Later Vedic period.

**192.** Which of the following Mahajanapadas was a republic?
(A) Magadha
(B) Malla
(C) Kosala
(D) Avanti

**193.** The concept of 'Syadvada' or 'Anekantavada' (the theory of may-be or many-sidedness) is a fundamental tenet of:
(A) Buddhism
(B) Jainism
(C) The Ajivika sect
(D) The Charvaka school

**194.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The term 'Bharatavarsha' is first mentioned in the Rigveda.
Statement II: The Puranas describe Bharatavarsha as the land south of the Himalayas and north of the ocean.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**195.** Which of the following is NOT a 'Samskara'?
(A) Jatakarma (birth ceremony)
(B) Upanayana (sacred thread ceremony)

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(C) Yajna (sacrifice)
(D) Vivaha (marriage)

**196.** The Chinese traveler Fa-Hien visited India during the reign of which dynasty?
(A) Mauryan
(B) Kushan
(C) Vardhana
(D) Gupta

**197.** The Chalcolithic cultures are so-named because their technology was characterized by the use of:
(A) Stone and Iron
(B) Bronze and Tin
(C) Copper and Stone
(D) Only Polished Stone

**198.** The 'second urbanisation' in Indian history is intrinsically linked to:
(A) The decline of the Harappan civilization
(B) The spread of iron technology and agricultural surplus in the Gangetic valley
(C) The invasion of Alexander the Great
(D) The establishment of the Mauryan empire

**199.** What was the 'vis' in the Rigvedic political structure?
(A) The royal family
(B) The council of elders
(C) The head priest
(D) A subdivision of the 'jana'

**200.** The matrimonial alliances of the Haryanka ruler Bimbisara with Kosala and Lichchhavi were primarily aimed at:
(A) Strengthening his political position and expanding his influence
(B) Spreading his specific religious and philosophical beliefs
(C) Fulfilling the requirements of a major Vedic yajna
(D) Promoting new cultural and educational exchange programs

**201.** Which of the following constitutes 'Laukik' literature as a source of history?
(A) The Upanishads
(B) The Brahmanas
(C) Panini's 'Ashtadhyayi'
(D) The Atharvaveda

**202.** The first Tirthankara of Jainism is considered to be:
(A) Rishabhanatha
(B) Parshvanatha
(C) Mahavira
(D) Neminatha

**203.** The term 'Bodhisattva' in Mahayana Buddhism refers to:
(A) A previous incarnation of the Buddha
(B) A senior monk in a monastery
(C) A follower of the original teachings of the Buddha
(D) An enlightened being who helps others toward nirvana

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**204.** Which of the following is the best description of the 'Varnasrama Dharma'?
(A) The rules governing warfare between different kingdoms
(B) The duties and stages of life prescribed for individuals
(C) The laws related to trade and commerce
(D) The philosophical doctrine about the creation of the universe

**205.** The 'Panch Mahayajnas' were:
(A) Five great military campaigns
(B) Five great annual festivals
(C) Five daily sacrifices to be performed by a householder
(D) Five vows taken by a Jaina monk

**206.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: Accounts of Arab travellers and geographers are a major source for the history of early medieval India.
Statement II: Writers like Al-Masudi and Sulaiman provided valuable information on Indian kingdoms like the Rashtrakutas and Pratiharas.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**207.** A primary difference between the hunting-gathering societies of the Paleolithic and Mesolithic ages is:
(A) Paleolithic tools were heavy, while

Mesolithic tools were microliths.
(B) Paleolithic people lived in caves, while Mesolithic people built houses.
(C) Paleolithic people practiced burial, while Mesolithic people did not.
(D) Paleolithic societies were matriarchal, while Mesolithic societies were patriarchal.

**208.** The most accepted period for the Mature Phase of the Indus/Saraswati Valley Civilization is:
(A) 4000-3500 BCE
(B) 2600-1900 BCE
(C) 3500-2600 BCE
(D) 1900-1500 BCE

**209.** The Aryan-invasion theory for the decline of Harappan civilization has been contested due to:
(A) Strong evidence of Harappan cultural continuity
(B) A chronological gap between the decline of cities and the arrival of Aryans
(C) The discovery of iron weapons at Harappan sites
(D) The peaceful nature of the Rigvedic texts

**210.** What was the most significant change in the religious sphere during the Later Vedic period?
(A) The rise of Prajapati, Vishnu, and Rudra over earlier deities
(B) The complete disappearance of yajnas and rituals
(C) The emergence of Buddhism and Jainism as the dominant religions
(D) The worship of female goddesses became the most prominent feature

**211.** Which of the following was NOT one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas?
(A) Gandhara
(B) Kamboja
(C) Kalinga
(D) Matsya

**212.** The annexation of which Mahajanapada by Bimbisara is considered the first step in Magadha's rise to power?
(A) Kasi
(B) Kosala
(C) Avanti
(D) Anga

**213.** The epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata, are considered part of which category of literature?
(A) Shruti
(B) Pitaka
(C) Smriti
(D) Agama

**214.** Match the Harappan sites in List I with their modern Indian states in List II.
List I:
P. Kalibangan
Q. Lothal
R. Rakhigarhi
S. Ropar
List II:
1. Gujarat
2. Punjab
3. Rajasthan
4. Haryana
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**215.** Alexander's invasion of India was NOT a cause of:
(A) The establishment of direct contact between India and Greece
(B) The weakening of northwestern Indian states
(C) The rise of the Mauryan empire in the vacuum created
(D) The immediate overthrow of the Nanda dynasty by Alexander

**216.** The concept of 'Rit' in the Vedic age signifies:
(A) The cosmic law and moral order
(B) The wealth of a person
(C) The sacred sacrificial fire
(D) The spoken word of a priest

**217.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The 'Sabha' and 'Samiti' lost their importance during the Later Vedic Period.
Reason (R): The growing power of the king and the emergence of a territorial monarchy diminished the influence of these tribal assemblies.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**218.** The 'Shatapatha Brahmana', which provides detailed information about Later Vedic society and rituals, is associated with which Veda?
(A) Yajurveda
(B) Rigveda
(C) Samaveda
(D) Atharvaveda

**219.** The 'Jatakas' are stories concerning:
(A) The lives of the Jaina Tirthankaras
(B) The dialogues between Krishna and Arjuna
(C) The heroic deeds of Vedic gods
(D) The previous lives of the Buddha

**220.** Consider the following statements regarding foreign invasions in ancient India:
1. The Persian invasion was led by Darius I, who annexed parts of Punjab and Sindh.
2. Alexander the Great confronted King Porus on the banks of the river Indus.
3. The invasions led to the opening of new trade routes and cultural interactions.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**221.** Which 'Purushartha' is concerned with material prosperity and economic well-being?
(A) Dharma
(B) Kama
(C) Artha
(D) Moksha

**222.** The term 'Rina' in ancient Indian thought signifies a debt that an individual owes. The 'Pitri Rina' is the debt towards:
(A) The Gods
(B) The Sages
(C) The King
(D) The Ancestors

**223.** What type of information can be primarily gleaned from a study of coins (numismatics)?
(A) Economic conditions, extent of kingdoms, and art of the period
(B) The complete social structure of a society
(C) The details of religious philosophy
(D) The complete literary history of a period

**224.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The transition to the Neolithic period is marked by the beginning of agriculture.
Statement II: The beginning of agriculture led to a more sedentary lifestyle and the formation of villages.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**225.** The survival of Harappan religious practices in later Hinduism can be seen in the worship of all the following EXCEPT:
(A) Pashupati (a prototype of Shiva)
(B) Indra, the god of thunder
(C) Mother Goddess
(D) Pipal tree and sacred animals

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**226.** The exercise of political institutions from the Rigvedic to the Later Vedic period is best characterized as a shift from:
(A) Tribal chieftainship to territorial kingship
(B) Monarchy to republic
(C) Democracy to oligarchy
(D) Empire to fragmented states

**227.** The economic growth in the age of Mahajanapadas was significantly boosted by the:
(A) Introduction of barter system
(B) Decline of agriculture
(C) Use of punch-marked coins and the rise of trade
(D) Ban on lending money on interest

**228.** The Haryanka dynasty's rule over Magadha ended with the rise of:
(A) The Nanda Dynasty
(B) The Mauryan Dynasty
(C) The Kanva Dynasty
(D) The Shishunaga Dynasty

**229.** The main aim of the philosophical ideas of both Jainism and Buddhism was to:

(A) Establish a new political order
(B) Justify the varna system
(C) Find a path to liberation from the cycle of birth and death
(D) Promote the performance of Vedic sacrifices

**230.** The Persian title 'Satrap' (Kshatrapa) used for provincial governors was adopted in India by which later rulers?
(A) The Mauryas
(B) The Sakas and Kushans
(C) The Guptas
(D) The Cholas

**231.** The 'Ashtadhyayi' of Panini, a key work of 'Laukik' literature, is a treatise on:
(A) Political science
(B) Medicine
(C) Architecture
(D) Sanskrit grammar

**232.** An archaeologist finds a settlement with pit-dwellings, a coarse grey pottery, and stone tools, along with bones of domesticated dogs. This site is characteristic of the Neolithic culture of which region?
(A) Kashmir
(B) The Deccan
(C) The Gangetic Valley
(D) The Western Ghats

**233.** The division of Jaina sect into Svetambaras and Digambaras is traditionally associated with:
(A) A dispute over the number of Tirthankaras
(B) The patronage of different kings
(C) A migration of a group of monks to the south during a famine
(D) The interpretation of the concept of Anekantavada

**234.** The term 'dhamma-mahamattas' found in Ashokan inscriptions refers to:
(A) A special cadre of officials appointed to spread the message of Dhamma
(B) High-ranking military commanders
(C) Provincial governors
(D) Treasury officials

**235.** The 'Gana-Sanghas' or republics of ancient India were eventually conquered and assimilated by the:
(A) Persian Empire
(B) Greek invaders
(C) Kushan Empire
(D) Expanding Magadhan monarchy

**236.** The 'Four Great Sights' that led Prince Siddhartha to renounce the world did NOT include:
(A) An old man
(B) A wealthy merchant
(C) A sick man
(D) A dead body

**237.** The 'Vanaprastha' stage in the Asrama system requires an individual to:
(A) Pursue education and live a celibate life
(B) Marry, raise a family, and earn a livelihood
(C) Retire to the forest and lead a life of meditation
(D) Renounce the world completely and become a wandering ascetic

**238.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Harappan civilization was highly uniform, with identical town planning and artifacts found across all sites.
Statement II: While there was a high degree of standardization, regional variations existed in pottery, town planning, and other cultural aspects.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**239.** The main deity of the Samaveda, which is a collection of chants, is:
(A) Surya (as a form of Savitr)
(B) Agni
(C) Soma
(D) Rudra

**240.** The 'Second Buddhist Council', which witnessed the first schism in the Sangha, was held at:
(A) Rajagriha
(B) Vaishali
(C) Pataliputra
(D) Kashmir

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**241.** Arrange the following stages of the 'Asrama' system in the correct order:
I. Grihastha
II. Sannyasa
III. Brahmacharya
IV. Vanaprastha
(A) III, I, IV, II
(B) I, III, IV, II
(C) III, IV, I, II
(D) I, II, III, IV

**242.** The accounts of Greco-Roman writers like Pliny lamented the drain of Roman gold to India in exchange for:
(A) Luxury goods like spices, textiles, and precious stones
(B) Food grains and horses
(C) Iron and steel weapons
(D) Philosophical texts and religious idols

**243.** The primary reason for the emergence of 'Second Urbanisation' in the Gangetic plain was:
(A) The development of a script
(B) The decline of pastoralism
(C) The production of an agricultural surplus due to iron technology
(D) Increased rainfall in the region

**244.** Match the Vedic deities in List I with their associated roles in List II.
List I:
P. Indra
Q. Agni
R. Varuna
S. Soma
List II:
1. God of fire, intermediary between gods and men
2. God of war and weather
3. God of a plant from which a ritual drink was prepared
4. Upholder of the cosmic order ('Rita')
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

**245.** In the context of the sixth-century B.C. religious revolution, what does the term 'heterodox' primarily refer to?
(A) Sects that followed Vedic rituals strictly
(B) Philosophical schools that focused only on materialism
(C) Sects that rejected the authority of the Vedas
(D) New religious movements that originated outside India

**246.** The impact of the Hakhamani (Persian) invasion on India is visible in:
(A) The architecture of the Indus Valley cities
(B) Mauryan court art and the use of the Kharosthi script
(C) The development of the Brahmi script
(D) The religious philosophy of the Upanishads

**247.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The Upanishads mark a shift from ritualism to philosophical speculation.
Reason (R): They focus on themes like the nature of the Atman (individual soul) and its identity with Brahman (the Ultimate Reality), rather than on the procedures of yajnas.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**248.** The term 'bali' in the Vedic period originally meant a voluntary offering to the chief, but in the age of the Mahajanapadas, it became:
(A) A compulsory tax collected by the state
(B) A gift exchanged between kings
(C) A religious sacrifice
(D) The salary paid to soldiers

**249.** Which of the following is NOT one of the Three Jewels (Triratna) of Buddhism?
(A) Buddha
(B) Dhamma (Dharma)
(C) Ahimsa (Non-violence)
(D) Sangha

**250.** Consider the following statements about the rise of Jainism and Buddhism:
1. Both were founded by Kshatriya princes.
2. Both initially used Prakrit or Pali, the language of the common people, to preach their doctrines.
3. Both unequivocally accepted the authority

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of the Vedas.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 3 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**251.** Which of the following is a key characteristic of 'Laukik' (secular) literature?
(A) It deals exclusively with gods and goddesses.
(B) It is attributed to divine origin.
(C) It is written only in the Pali language.
(D) Its authorship is known, and it deals with worldly themes.

**252.** The geographical factors that contributed to the rise of Magadha included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Fertile alluvial plains supporting a large population
(B) A long coastline with many natural harbors for maritime trade
(C) Rich deposits of copper and iron nearby
(D) Strategic location with rivers like Ganga and Son for transport and defense

**253.** The 'proto-historic' phase of Indian history is exemplified by:
(A) The Paleolithic cultures
(B) The Mesolithic rock art
(C) The Indus Valley Civilization
(D) The Mauryan Empire

**254.** The 'Iron Age' in the Gangetic valley is associated with which major historical development?
(A) The decline of the Harappan civilization
(B) The composition of the Rigveda
(C) The invasion of the Hunas
(D) The rise of the Mahajanapadas and the Second Urbanisation

**255.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Rigvedic 'Rajan' was primarily a military leader who protected the tribe.
Statement II: The 'Rajan' of the Mahajanapada period was a territorial monarch with a standing army and an elaborate taxation system.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**256.** What was the primary motivation for the compilation of the 'Sutra' literature?
(A) To create epic poems for popular entertainment
(B) To provide a concise, systematic summary of Vedic knowledge
(C) To document the history of the kings and dynasties
(D) To challenge the authority of the Vedas

**257.** The last ruler of the Nanda dynasty, who was in power at the time of Alexander's invasion, was:
(A) Mahapadma Nanda
(B) Dhana Nanda
(C) Ugrasena
(D) Panduka

**258.** Which of these sources would be LEAST useful for reconstructing the history of the Prehistoric (Paleolithic/Mesolithic) period?
(A) Inscriptions
(B) Stone tools
(C) Fossil remains
(D) Cave paintings

**259.** The 'Doctrine of Karma' is best understood as:
(A) A system of ritual actions
(B) The duty prescribed by one's varna
(C) The law of cause and effect where actions determine future consequences
(D) The debt owed to one's ancestors

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**260.** Which of the following is a defining feature of the Mahayana school of Buddhism?
(A) The ideal of the Arhat who seeks personal liberation
(B) The worship of the Buddha as a great teacher but not a god
(C) Strict adherence to the original Pali canon only
(D) The Bodhisattva concept and deification of the Buddha

**261.** The concept of 'Purusharthas' provided a framework for:
(A) Organizing the military
(B) Regulating inter-state relations
(C) Balancing the spiritual and material goals of life

(D) Performing sacrificial rituals

**262.** Based on the historical account provided below, answer the following question:
*A king named Bimbisara expands his kingdom of Magadha by conquering Anga and forming marriage alliances with the families of Kosala and Vaishali. He patronizes both the Buddha and Mahavira. To which dynasty does he belong?*
(A) Nanda
(B) Haryanka
(C) Shishunaga
(D) Maurya

**263.** The use of Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) is a characteristic archaeological feature of which period?
(A) Harappan Civilization
(B) Rigvedic Period
(C) Chalcolithic Deccan
(D) The era of Mahajanapadas and the Mauryas

**264.** The 'Sulbasutras', part of the Sutra literature, are important for the history of:
(A) Indian mathematics and geometry
(B) Indian music
(C) Indian medicine
(D) Indian law

**265.** The primary distinction between a 'monarchy' and a 'republic' in the Mahajanapada period was:
(A) The language spoken
(B) The dominant religion
(C) The system of governance (hereditary king vs. assembly)
(D) The size of the territory

**266.** Which one of the following was a major port of the Indus Valley Civilization?
(A) Lothal
(B) Harappa
(C) Mohenjo-Daro
(D) Banawali

**267.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Later Vedic texts show a marked geographical shift from the 'Sapta Sindhu' region to the 'Ganga-Yamuna doab'.
Statement II: This shift corresponds with the increased importance of agriculture and the clearing of forests using iron tools.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**268.** The idea of the 'Middle Path' (Majjhima Patipada) in Buddhism is a course between:
(A) Theism and atheism
(B) Extreme luxury and extreme asceticism
(C) Monarchy and republic
(D) Brahmanism and Jainism

**269.** The main impact of the Achaemenid (Persian) rule in northwestern India was:
(A) Religious, leading to the spread of Zoroastrianism
(B) Social, leading to the collapse of the varna system
(C) Political and economic, stimulating trade and new administration
(D) Literary, resulting in the adoption of Persian as the court language

**270.** In the four-fold 'Varnasrama' system, the term 'Brahmana' refers to the class primarily responsible for:
(A) Ruling and warfare
(B) Agriculture, trade, and commerce
(C) Serving the other three classes
(D) Studying, teaching, and performing sacrifices

**271.** Who among the following foreign writers provided an account of India based on his personal travels in the 7th century CE, focusing on Buddhist sites and the university at Nalanda?
(A) Xuanzang (Hsuan-Tsang)
(B) Megasthenes
(C) Fa-Hien
(D) Al-Biruni

**272.** The term 'megalith' in prehistory refers to:
(A) A small stone tool
(B) A large stone slab or monument, often used for burials
(C) A type of pottery
(D) A cave dwelling

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**273.** The decline of the Harappan civilization was followed by a period of de-urbanization, with a re-emergence of cities centuries later, an event known as:
(A) The First Urbanisation
(B) The Second Urbanisation
(C) The Bronze Age Collapse
(D) The Great Migration

**274.** Match the terms in List I with their associated religions or concepts in List II.
List I:
P. Tirthankara
Q. Bodhisattva
R. Purusha Sukta
S. Panch Mahayajna
List II:
1. Mahayana Buddhism
2. Vedic Brahmanism
3. Jainism
4. Origin of the Varna System
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**275.** The most powerful Mahajanapada in the 6th century BCE, which eventually established the first major empire in India, was:
(A) Kosala
(B) Avanti
(C) Magadha
(D) Vajji

**276.** The 'Shishunaga' dynasty is historically important for finally defeating which long-standing rival of Magadha?
(A) Kosala
(B) Gandhara
(C) Vatsa
(D) Avanti

**277.** Based on the following assertion and reason, choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The teachings of Buddhism were readily accepted by the lower orders of society.
Reason (R): Buddhism attacked the varna system and preached social equality, offering an alternative to the rigidities of Brahmanical society.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**278.** The 'Sutras' and the 'Epics' are key literary sources for understanding the period between:
(A) The Harappan decline and the rise of the Vedas
(B) The end of the Later Vedic age and the rise of the Mauryan empire
(C) The Mauryan and the Gupta periods
(D) The Paleolithic and Neolithic ages

**279.** One of the major consequences of Alexander's invasion was the establishment of Greek cities in northwestern India, which facilitated:
(A) The immediate conquest of Magadha
(B) The spread of Buddhism to Greece
(C) The decline of the Persian empire
(D) Continuous cultural and commercial contact with the West

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**280.** Consider the following statements about the sources of Ancient Indian History:
1. Religious literature, despite its bias, provides insights into social and cultural norms.
2. Inscriptions, being contemporary official or private records, are often considered highly reliable.
3. The accounts of foreign travelers are completely free of exaggeration and misunderstanding.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**281.** The Vedic concept of 'Rita' implies:
(A) The correct performance of a ritual
(B) The debt owed to the gods
(C) The inherent cosmic and moral order of the universe
(D) The lineage of a priestly family

**282.** The 'Samiti' in the Vedic period was:
(A) A general assembly of the tribe, open to all common people
(B) A council of women

(C) A war council of generals
(D) A small, select body of elders

**283.** Which of the 'Panch Mahayajnas' represents the offering to guests, symbolizing human hospitality?
(A) Deva Yajna
(B) Pitri Yajna
(C) Bhuta Yajna
(D) Nri Yajna (or Atithi Yajna)

**284.** The 'Indica' of Megasthenes, though lost in its original form, is a valuable source for the Mauryan period. It is known to us through quotations in the works of later:
(A) Chinese writers
(B) Greco-Roman writers
(C) Arab writers
(D) Indian writers

**285.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Neolithic phase is characterized by a food-producing economy.
Statement II: The Paleolithic phase is characterized by a food-gathering economy.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**286.** The most striking feature of the town planning of the Indus Valley Civilization was the:
(A) Circular arrangement of streets
(B) Presence of massive temples in the city center
(C) Construction using only wood and mud-brick
(D) Grid system of streets and an elaborate drainage system

**287.** In the later Vedic period, the term 'Rashtra', indicating territory, first appeared, signifying the growing importance of:
(A) Land and territorial kingship over tribal identity
(B) The tribe over land
(C) The priestly class
(D) The village assembly

**288.** The sixteen Mahajanapadas are mentioned in which of the following ancient texts?
(A) Rigveda
(B) Anguttara Nikaya
(C) Arthashastra
(D) Manusmriti

**289.** The core of Buddha's teachings is encapsulated in the:
(A) The Five Vows
(B) The Four Noble Truths
(C) The concept of Atman
(D) The rules of the caste system

**290.** The most enduring legacy of Alexander's invasion of India was:
(A) The opening of routes fostering centuries of contact
(B) The establishment of a long-lasting Greek empire in India
(C) The complete hellenization of Indian culture
(D) The political unification of North India under the Mauryas

**291.** Which of the following is NOT one of the 'four stages of life' (asramas)?
(A) Brahmacharya
(B) Grihastha
(C) Vaishya
(D) Sannyasa

**292.** The study of ancient writing systems like Brahmi and Kharosthi, as found in inscriptions, is called:
(A) Numismatics
(B) Epigraphy
(C) Sphragistics
(D) Paleography

**293.** The primary economic activity during the Mesolithic period was:
(A) Settled agriculture
(B) Large-scale trade
(C) Hunting, fishing, and food gathering
(D) Metal-working

**294.** The political structure of the Indus Valley Civilization is best described as:
(A) A confirmed large empire ruled by a single king

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(B) Uncertain, but possibly a state ruled by priests or merchants
(C) A series of small warring states
(D) A democracy with elected officials

**295.** The Rigvedic society can be described as:
(A) Strictly matriarchal
(B) Rigidly caste-based
(C) Urban and commercial
(D) Largely egalitarian and patriarchal

**296.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The capital of the Vajji confederacy was Vaishali.
Statement II: The Vajji confederacy was a monarchy ruled by a powerful king.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**297.** The Jaina doctrine of 'Anekantavada' implies that:
(A) There is only one absolute truth
(B) The world is an illusion
(C) Truth and reality are complex and have multiple aspects
(D) One must follow a path of extreme asceticism

**298.** The 'Sutra' texts were composed to:
(A) Serve as condensed manuals for ritual and law
(B) Be sung as hymns
(C) Tell stories of gods and heroes
(D) Be read as philosophical dialogues

**299.** The Persian province (satrapy) in northwestern India, mentioned by Herodotus as the 20th and most populous satrapy, was called:
(A) Gandara
(B) Kamboja
(C) Taxila
(D) Hidush (Sindhu)

**300.** The concept of 'Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara' is a central feature of:
(A) Hinayana Buddhism
(B) Mahayana Buddhism
(C) Jainism
(D) Ajivika philosophy

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# ANSWERS

1. (B) IV, II, III, I
The prehistoric timeline follows a specific technological and social evolution. The Paleolithic period represents the earliest hunter-gatherer phase. It was succeeded by the Mesolithic period, characterized by smaller stone tools. Subsequently, the Neolithic age introduced settled agriculture. Finally, the Chalcolithic period marked the beginning of metal use, specifically copper, alongside stone tools.

2. (A) The land of the Bharata tribe, eventually denoting the entire subcontinent
Ancient Indian texts conceptualize the region as a distinct geographical and cultural unit. The term originally referred to the territory occupied by the Bharata tribe in the northern plains. Over time, its meaning expanded significantly to encompass the entire Indian subcontinent. This signifies a proto-national identity rooted in shared cultural traditions and geographical boundaries.

3. (C) The cosmic order and moral law that governs the entire universe
In Vedic philosophy, this concept represents the fundamental principle of order that sustains the universe. It encompasses both the physical laws of nature and the moral conduct expected of human beings. Deities, especially Varuna, were viewed as the guardians of this cosmic harmony, ensuring that all elements of creation functioned systematically.

4. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Ancient Indian society was organized around several foundational concepts. Varnasrama defines the four social classes and life stages. Purusharthas identify the four legitimate goals of human existence. Rina explains the triple debts owed to deities, sages, and ancestors. Finally, Samsakaras are the essential sacraments or rites of passage that mark various transitions throughout an individual's life.

5. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Political life in the early Vedic period was characterized by tribal assemblies. The Sabha functioned as a specialized body consisting of elders and distinguished members of the community. In contrast, the Samiti served as a comprehensive gathering of the entire tribe. Both institutions played a critical role in advising the tribal chief and making important decisions.

6. (B) Nirvana
The traditional framework for human goals includes four specific pursuits. Dharma refers to righteousness and duty, while Artha focuses on material prosperity and economic well-being. Kama represents the fulfillment of sensory and emotional desires. Moksha is the ultimate aim of spiritual liberation. While often associated with spiritual goals, the specific term for Buddhist liberation remains distinct.

7. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
This philosophical principle is a cornerstone of Indian thought, appearing in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. It asserts that every intentional action produces a specific result that influences the soul's journey. Consequently, an individual's current circumstances and future experiences are determined by the moral quality of their past deeds, thoughts, and intentions across various lifetimes.

8. (A) Nri Yajna was exclusively for offering oblations to the king.
Householders were traditionally expected to perform five daily sacrifices to maintain cosmic and social balance. While Brahma Yajna involved Vedic study and Pitri Yajna honored ancestors, Nri Yajna focused on hospitality and service to fellow human beings. It was not a royal tribute but rather a ritualized act of feeding guests and assisting those in need.

9. (C) Mahayana Buddhism
This spiritual ideal emerged prominently within the larger Buddhist tradition. It describes a being who has attained enlightenment but chooses to remain in the cycle of rebirth to assist others. This concept emphasizes universal compassion and

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selfless service. It distinguishes this particular school from earlier forms that focused primarily on individual liberation through the path of the Arhat.

**10.** (B) 1 and 2 only
These ritual ceremonies encompass the entire lifespan, beginning before birth and continuing until death. They are designed to purify the individual and facilitate successful transitions between different life stages. Primary details regarding these rites are found in the Grihya Sutras. Historically, participation in these sacraments varied, and they were not strictly limited only to the first two varnas.

**11.** (D) A 'ford-maker' who has conquered the cycle of rebirth
In the Jaina tradition, these individuals are revered as supreme spiritual teachers who have achieved complete liberation. The term literally means someone who creates a crossing across the ocean of worldly suffering. They preach the dharma to guide others toward enlightenment. There are twenty-four such figures in each half-cycle of time, with Mahavira being the final one.

**12.** (B) Secular works like drama, law-books, and poetry
Ancient Indian writings are broadly categorized into religious and non-religious texts. This specific category focuses on worldly or secular subjects rather than purely sacrificial or theological matters. It includes influential works such as grammatical treatises, political manuals, scientific discourses, and creative literature like plays. These sources provide invaluable insights into the social, economic, and political life of the period.

**13.** (C) Epigraphy
Historical reconstruction relies heavily on various archaeological remains. The study of writings engraved on hard surfaces like rocks, pillars, and copper plates is vital for understanding past political and administrative systems. These specific royal edicts provide direct evidence of an emperor's policies, territorial extent, and personal beliefs. They are considered highly reliable due to their contemporary and permanent nature.

**14.** (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
Classical accounts from Western writers offer significant information regarding India's international commerce and diplomatic relations. While the work titled Indica is a major source for understanding the Mauryan era, the original manuscript is no longer extant. Modern knowledge of its contents is derived solely from fragments and references found in the writings of subsequent historians such as Arrian and Strabo.

**15.** (A) Hunting and food gathering
During the earliest phase of human history, communities relied entirely on natural resources for survival. They did not practice cultivation or permanent settlement. Instead, they moved frequently to follow animal herds and seasonal plant availability. Their technology consisted primarily of crude stone tools designed for butchering animals and processing wild plants, reflecting a lifestyle completely dependent on the immediate environment.

**16.** (B) Xuanzang (Hsuan-Tsang) - Persian
Historical accounts from travelers provide external perspectives on Indian society. While Fa-Hien and Xuanzang were prominent monks who traveled from East Asia to study Buddhist scriptures, Megasthenes represented the Hellenistic world, and Al-Biruni arrived from the Islamic scholarly tradition. Misidentifying the origin of these individuals obscures the specific cultural and intellectual exchanges that occurred during their visits.

**17.** (B) Neolithic
The shift from a nomadic lifestyle to a sedentary existence is the defining transformation of this prehistoric era. It was during this time that human groups began domesticating plants and animals, leading to the creation of permanent village settlements. This economic change allowed for population growth, the development of specialized crafts like pottery, and more complex social organizational structures.

**18.** (A) Advanced urban planning and drainage systems
This ancient civilization is renowned for its sophisticated civil engineering and architectural precision. The cities featured a consistent grid layout, with streets intersecting at right angles

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and a highly developed underground sewer system. These features indicate a strong central authority and a deep understanding of public health and hygiene, setting it apart from other contemporary Bronze Age societies.

**19.** (C) Multiple factors, including climate change and floods, are considered potential causes.
Modern scholarship suggests that the end of this urban civilization was not the result of a single catastrophic event. Instead, a combination of environmental and economic shifts likely played a role. Changes in river courses, prolonged droughts, tectonic activity, and the decline of international trade probably contributed to a gradual process of de-urbanization rather than a sudden total collapse.

**20.** (D) The Gangetic plains around the 6th century B.C.
This historical phase marks the re-emergence of large cities in India following the decline of the Indus Valley sites. It occurred primarily in the fertile river valleys of the north. The process was driven by the widespread use of iron technology, which enabled extensive forest clearing and increased agricultural productivity. This surplus supported the rise of Mahajanapadas and diverse urban centers.

**21.** (C) Rigveda
This sacred text is the foundation of the Vedic corpus and represents the earliest literary evidence of Indo-Aryan culture. It consists of over a thousand hymns dedicated to various natural deities and cosmic powers. These verses provide critical information about the social, political, and religious life of the early Aryan tribes as they settled in the northwestern regions of the subcontinent.

**22.** (B) Numismatics
The study of physical currency is essential for reconstructing ancient economic history. It provides data on the metallic purity, minting technology, and artistic preferences of different dynasties. By examining the distribution and symbols on these objects, researchers can determine the extent of empires, the prosperity of trade routes, and the chronological sequence of various rulers who issued them.

**23.** (D) The dominance of female deities in the religious pantheon
This era witnessed significant changes in social and political organization. Territorial kingdoms replaced tribal units, and the social hierarchy became increasingly rigid through a hereditary class system. Religious practices shifted toward elaborate sacrifices performed by professional priests. While the pantheon evolved with new male gods gaining prominence, female deities did not hold a dominant position in the official religious hierarchy.

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**24.** (A) Sixteen large territorial states, including both monarchies and republics
By the sixth century B.C., the political landscape of northern India was dominated by these powerful entities. These states represented a transition from tribal communities to settled territorial governments. While many were governed by hereditary kings, several functioned as oligarchic republics where power was shared among a council of elites. They frequently engaged in competition for regional hegemony and resources.

**25.** (C) Haryanka
This monarch was the first significant ruler to initiate the expansion of Magadha. He consolidated his power through a combination of military conquests and strategic matrimonial alliances with neighboring royal families. His reign established the foundation for the kingdom's future dominance in northern India. His administration focused on centralized control and resource management, which were continued by his successors.

**26.** (A) Ahimsa, Anekantavada, and Aparigraha
The philosophical foundations of this tradition emphasize ethical conduct and the nature of reality. Non-violence toward all living beings serves as the primary moral guideline. The doctrine of many-sidedness suggests that truth is complex and can be viewed from multiple perspectives. Additionally, the practice of non-attachment to material possessions is essential for spiritual progress and liberation from karmic bonds.

**27.** (D) Iranian/Persian
This powerful empire, based in the West, was the first to successfully penetrate the northwestern frontiers of the Indian subcontinent. Their presence introduced new administrative techniques and influenced local artistic styles. The contact facilitated trade and the exchange of ideas between the two regions. They established a system of provincial governors that impacted the later political structures of Indian dynasties.

**28.** (B) Nanda
The Macedonian invasion occurred when the northeastern parts of the subcontinent were governed by a dynasty known for its immense wealth and massive military strength. Reports of the formidable army possessed by these rulers, including thousands of elephants, reportedly contributed to the decision of the invading soldiers to turn back at the Beas River, preventing a direct conflict in the heartland.

**29.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
These sacred texts hold a unique status in Indian tradition. They are believed to be eternal truths revealed to ancient seers rather than human compositions. Because they were preserved through a meticulous system of oral transmission from teacher to student over many centuries, they are also categorized as heard literature. This method ensured the remarkable preservation of their linguistic and phonetic accuracy.

**30.** (D) A state governed by an assembly rather than a single king
In the ancient political context, these entities stood in contrast to hereditary monarchies. They were often characterized by a collective leadership where decisions were made through deliberation in a central hall. Power was typically vested in a specific clan or a council of aristocratic families. These polities flourished in the Himalayan foothills and the northwestern regions during the age of Mahajanapadas.

**31.** (A) Mesolithic
This prehistoric phase serves as a bridge between the earlier hunting periods and the later agricultural ages. The characteristic use of very small stone tools reflects a shift in hunting techniques and subsistence patterns. Evidence from this time shows the earliest attempts at taming animals and a more sedentary lifestyle, although large-scale farming had not yet become the primary economic activity.

**32.** (B) Raja Rina (debt to the king)
Vedic thought posits that every individual is born with specific moral and spiritual obligations that must be fulfilled through proper conduct. These include duties toward the divine powers, the sages who preserved knowledge, and the ancestral lineage. Fulfilling these responsibilities through rituals, study, and raising a family was considered essential for maintaining the cosmic order and achieving personal spiritual balance.

**33.** (B) The Arthashastra of Kautilya
Non-religious literature provides a different perspective on ancient history compared to liturgical or philosophical texts. This specific category includes works on statecraft, grammar, and creative arts. A prime example is the comprehensive manual on administration and political economy attributed to a famous advisor. Such texts are vital for understanding the practical aspects of governance, law, and social organization in early Indian society.

**34.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Foreign travelers provided diverse accounts that supplement indigenous records. The Greco-Roman ambassador described the Mauryan capital and administration. Early Chinese pilgrims focused on Buddhist sites and the state of the religion during the Gupta and Harsha periods. Later, scholars from the Islamic world produced detailed analytical works on Indian sciences and culture, offering a systematic outsider's view of the subcontinent.

**35.** (C) Numismatics
The scientific examination of ancient currency is a critical branch of archaeology. It involves analyzing the metal content, inscriptions, and symbols found on coins to gain insights into the past. This field helps historians establish chronological sequences, identify the extent of commercial networks, and understand the artistic and political ideologies of various rulers through the iconography they chose for their money.

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**36.** (D) Increased deforestation and expansion of agriculture
The adoption of a harder metal for tools radically transformed the landscape of northern India. Sturdier axes allowed for the clearing of dense forests in the Gangetic valley, while more effective ploughs facilitated deep cultivation of the heavy soil. This led to a significant increase in food production, supporting larger populations and the growth of permanent urban centers and complex states.

**37.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
As the Vedic tribes settled in the fertile plains, their social organization underwent a profound transformation. The relatively flexible divisions of the earlier period were replaced by a more formal and hereditary hierarchy. The ritual specialization of priests and the military role of the nobility became solidified as permanent classes. This rigidity restricted social mobility and created a structured, unequal society based on birth.

**38.** (B) Bodhisattva
This concept is central to the compassionate philosophy of the later Buddhist schools. It describes an individual who has reached a high level of spiritual realization but chooses to remain in the world to assist others. This ideal emphasizes altruism and the welfare of all beings over individual escape from suffering. It became a popular focus of devotion and artistic representation in ancient India.

**39.** (D) It accepts the authority of the Vedas and the caste system.
This tradition emerged as a challenge to the existing religious and social norms of the period. It specifically rejected the divine origin of the ancient scriptures and the efficacy of animal sacrifices. Furthermore, it preached a message of social equality that disregarded the hereditary hierarchy. By focusing on individual ethical conduct rather than birth or ritual, it offered a new path for spiritual liberation.

**40.** (C) 1 and 2 only
The ascent of this kingdom was facilitated by exceptional natural advantages and strategic resources. Its proximity to major rivers ensured easy communication and fertile land for a surplus economy. Furthermore, access to abundant mineral resources allowed for the production of superior tools and weaponry. These factors, combined with the efforts of powerful monarchs, enabled the state to dominate its regional rivals.

**41.** (C) Darius-I
This Persian monarch successfully extended his influence into the northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent. By annexing the Indus valley, he integrated the region into a vast international empire. This contact introduced new administrative practices and fostered trade between India and the West. The region became a wealthy province, contributing significant tribute and soldiers to the central imperial government of the Achaemenids.

**42.** (A) A Mauryan royal edict
Public inscriptions serve as primary evidence for royal policies and historical events. This specific record highlights a monarch's profound personal transformation and his subsequent commitment to ethical governance. Such documents are crucial for understanding the administrative shift from military conquest to moral persuasion. They provide a direct window into the ideology and communication methods used by one of ancient India's most significant imperial rulers.

**43.** (D) Paleolithic people were hunter-gatherers, while Neolithic people began agriculture.
The transition between these two prehistoric phases represents a fundamental change in how humans interacted with their environment. The earlier period was defined by a mobile existence focused on collecting wild resources. In contrast, the later period saw the development of farming and animal domestication. This economic revolution led to permanent settlements, the growth of villages, and the beginning of more complex social structures.

**44.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Archaeological evidence confirms that this Bronze Age civilization maintained active commercial links with contemporary societies in the West. The discovery of distinctive Indus artifacts in distant river valleys suggests a robust maritime and overland trade network. These exchanges likely involved luxury goods,

NODIA

raw materials, and agricultural products. Such interactions demonstrate the interconnected nature of ancient urban civilizations across the broader Near Eastern region.

**45.** (C) The Dharmasutras
Vedic literature is categorized into works believed to be divinely revealed and those based on human memory and tradition. The former group includes the primary hymns and philosophical treatises. The latter category encompasses manuals on social conduct, law, and domestic rituals. These texts provide detailed guidelines for ethical living and the duties of various social groups, reflecting the evolving legal and social standards of ancient India.

**46.** (D) The emergence of large territorial kingdoms or 'Janapadas'
This period was marked by a shift from tribal organization toward more stable and extensive political units. As groups settled permanently in specific regions, their identity became tied to the land they occupied. This led to the formation of centralized governments with increased power for the monarch. These developments laid the groundwork for the eventual rise of even larger empires in the subcontinent.

**47.** (A) The earliest form of coinage in India, made of silver with punched symbols
The growth of urban centers and trade led to the introduction of a standardized medium of exchange. These metal pieces were manufactured by striking specific symbols onto flat sheets of silver or copper. Unlike later coins, they did not feature the names of kings but instead carried various geometric or natural motifs. Their widespread use indicates a highly developed and monetized economy.

**48.** (B) Mahavira
This spiritual teacher is regarded as the twenty-fourth and last great guide of his tradition. He revitalized and reorganized existing philosophical doctrines, emphasizing extreme non-violence and asceticism. His life and teachings provided a systematic path toward spiritual liberation that continues to be followed. He is credited with expanding the ethical vows and establishing a robust monastic community that preserved his core philosophical message.

**49.** (B) The opening of direct routes between India and Europe, fostering trade
While the Macedonian campaign in the subcontinent was relatively brief, its long-term effects were significant. It established new land and sea connections that linked the Indian interior with the Mediterranean world. These routes facilitated the movement of goods, people, and ideas for centuries. This increased contact eventually influenced local artistic styles and broadened the geographical horizons of both Indian and Western civilizations.

**50.** (A) Shudra
The ancient social framework included a system of four sequential stages for an individual's life. These included the periods of being a student, a householder, a forest-dweller, and finally a wandering ascetic. Each stage had specific duties and goals designed to lead toward spiritual maturity. This system was distinct from the classification of social groups, which categorized people based on their hereditary occupations.

**51.** (C) Epigraphy
This field of study involves the systematic analysis of writings carved onto durable materials such as stone, metal, or clay. These records are vital because they provide contemporary accounts of political events, administrative orders, and personal donations. They help historians verify information found in literary sources and offer precise details about the language, script, and social conditions of the period in which they were created.

**52.** (D) Copper and stone tools
This transitional period in human history is defined by the first use of metal alongside traditional lithic technology. While stone remained a primary material for many everyday implements, the introduction of a soft metal allowed for more specialized tools and ornaments. This era saw the growth of settled village communities, advancements in pottery, and the early development of regional trade networks for raw materials.

**53.** (C) Mohenjo-daro
This impressive architectural feature is one of the most famous remains of the Indus Valley Civilization. It consists of a large, rectangular

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tank lined with bitumen for waterproofing and surrounded by a series of rooms and galleries. Experts believe it was used for ritual purification or public ceremonies, reflecting the importance of water and hygiene in the religious and social life of this urban society.

**54.** (B) A tribal system, with the 'Jana' as the largest political unit
The political life of the early Vedic period was centered on kinship and tribal identity rather than fixed territory. People were organized into various groups led by a chief. These units were mobile and focused on pastoralism. Decision-making often involved assemblies of the community, and the authority of the leader was based more on military prowess and consensus than on absolute power.

**55.** (D) Haryanka
This aggressive monarch continued the expansionist policies of his father, significantly enlarging the kingdom of Magadha. He is known for conquering several neighboring powerful states and fortifying his capital. His reign was a period of intense political activity and military innovation. He also played a notable role in contemporary religious history by interacting with major spiritual leaders who were active during his lifetime.

**56.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
These two major philosophical traditions offered different approaches to achieving spiritual liberation. One emphasized the necessity of rigorous self-denial and physical hardship to purge the soul of karmic matter. In contrast, the other advocated for a balanced lifestyle that avoided both the excesses of worldly pleasure and the extremes of ascetic pain, focusing instead on mindfulness and ethical mental discipline.

**57.** (C) Jhelum (Hydaspes)
This historic encounter took place in the northwestern region of the subcontinent between a Macedonian invader and a courageous local king. The battle was fought under challenging weather conditions near a major river. Despite the superior military tactics of the invading force, the bravery of the local soldiers and their use of war elephants made a lasting impression on the foreign conquerors.

**58.** (A) Bhuta Yajna
Within the framework of daily domestic rituals, this specific offering was intended to acknowledge the interconnectedness of all living things. It involved providing food or oblations to various creatures, including animals, insects, and spiritual beings. This practice reflected a broader ethical concern for the welfare of all existence and served as a reminder of the householder's responsibility toward the entire natural and spiritual world.

**59.** (D) Study at Nalanda University and collect Buddhist scriptures
This seventh-century traveler undertook a perilous journey to the subcontinent driven by a deep religious devotion. His primary goal was to deepen his understanding of Buddhist philosophy by learning from the most renowned scholars of the time. He spent several years at a famous center of learning, documenting the teachings he encountered and bringing back numerous sacred manuscripts to his home country.

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**60.** (B) The appearance of small stone tools known as microliths
This phase of human prehistory is marked by a significant technological shift in tool manufacturing. The characteristic implements were diminutive, precisely shaped stones that were often hafted into handles of wood or bone to create composite weapons. This advancement allowed for more efficient hunting of smaller and faster animals, reflecting an adaptation to changing environmental conditions and the emergence of more diverse subsistence strategies.

**61.** (C) II, III, I
The political history of this powerful northeastern kingdom followed a sequence of three major ruling families before the rise of the Mauryas. The first significant dynasty established the core territory through military and diplomatic means. They were succeeded by a family that expanded the influence further. Finally, a wealthy and militarily powerful dynasty took control, setting the stage for the unification of northern India.

**62.** (D) The continued use of the Harappan script in later periods
While the urban phase of this ancient civilization eventually declined, many of its cultural practices

and symbols persisted in later periods. Elements such as specific religious motifs, standardized systems of weights, and certain agricultural techniques were integrated into subsequent Indian traditions. However, the unique writing system used by the urban dwellers was lost and did not serve as the basis for later Indian scripts.

**63.** (A) Right Faith, Right Knowledge, Right Conduct
The path to spiritual liberation in this tradition is defined by three fundamental pillars. These include a deep belief in the truth of philosophical principles, a correct understanding of the nature of the universe, and the practice of ethical behavior based on non-violence. Together, these elements form a comprehensive guide for the practitioner to shed karmic bonds and achieve the ultimate goal of enlightenment.

**64.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Early Vedic political and social life was organized around several key roles and units. The fundamental social group was the tribe or community of people. Their leader functioned primarily as a military protector. Spiritual guidance and ritual performance were the responsibility of the chief priest. At the local level, the management of smaller settlements was handled by a specific designated official or headman.

**65.** (B) The development of urban centres in the Gangetic plains after the collapse of the Harappan culture
This historical development refers to the re-emergence of complex city life in northern India following a long period of rural existence. It was fueled by technological advancements, particularly the widespread use of iron, which increased agricultural productivity. This surplus supported a growing population and facilitated specialized trade and crafts, leading to the rise of prominent administrative and commercial centers across the fertile river valleys.

**66.** (A) Religious literature can provide insights into the social, religious, and cultural life of a period.
Written records from the past, even when primarily focused on spiritual matters, serve as vital windows into ancient society. They reflect the values, customs, and social hierarchies of the time in which they were composed. While they may contain mythological elements, they offer significant data regarding daily life, ethical standards, and the historical development of ideas that shaped the broader cultural landscape of the subcontinent.

**67.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The political landscape of northern India in the sixth century B.C. was diverse, featuring different systems of governance. While some states were ruled by hereditary monarchs, others functioned as collective entities where decisions were made by a council of elites. These non-monarchical polities demonstrate that various forms of organized political authority coexisted, reflecting a complex and sophisticated understanding of leadership and social organization.

**68.** (D) Indra
The religious life of the early Vedic tribes centered on a pantheon of natural deities. Among these, the most prominent was a powerful figure associated with thunder, rain, and warfare. He was celebrated in numerous hymns as the protector of the people and the slayer of obstacles. His dominance reflects the priorities of a mobile, pastoral community that valued military strength and the life-sustaining power of seasonal storms.

**69.** (C) Cyrus-II (Kurush)
This ambitious monarch was the founder of a major Western empire and initiated its expansion toward the East. He led the first expeditions that reached the northwestern boundaries of the Indian subcontinent. Although he did not establish permanent control over large territories in the region, his campaigns paved the way for future rulers to annex these lands and integrate them into a vast international administrative system.

**70.** (A) 1 and 3 only
The ancient corpus of sacred knowledge consists of four distinct collections with specialized functions. One focuses on rhythmic chants used during ceremonies, while another provides rituals for protection against illness and negative influences. A third collection contains guidelines for sacrificial procedures, often presented in a mix of poetic and prose forms. Together, these

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texts offer a comprehensive view of the diverse spiritual practices of the Vedic period.

**71.** (D) Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism
This fundamental philosophical principle is shared by all major religious traditions that originated in the Indian subcontinent. It posits that every moral action has a corresponding consequence, shaping the soul's current and future experiences. This concept provides an ethical framework for individual conduct and explains the diversity of human circumstances as the result of cumulative deeds and intentions across multiple cycles of existence.

**72.** (A) They reflect the artistic and architectural sentiments of their time.
Physical structures from the past serve as enduring expressions of the cultural values and creative aspirations of ancient societies. By studying the design, materials, and decorations of temples, stupas, and palaces, historians can understand the prevailing religious beliefs and the technological capabilities of a particular era. These monuments act as visible records of the aesthetic tastes and social priorities favored by the dynasties that commissioned them.

**73.** (C) The extensive use of iron for clearing forests and making ploughshares
The transformation of the economy was driven by the adoption of a durable metal for essential tools. Stronger implements allowed for the clearing of dense vegetation in the river valleys, creating vast new areas for cultivation. More effective farming equipment also enabled deeper tilling of the soil, leading to increased yields. This agricultural surplus facilitated a more settled lifestyle and the growth of larger, permanent communities.

**74.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The geographical distribution of major states in ancient India was extensive. One powerful kingdom in the west-central region was strategically divided into two administrative zones, each with its own significant urban center. Meanwhile, another prominent entity was situated on the northwestern frontier, serving as a vital link between the Indian interior and the regions of modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan, facilitating trade and cultural exchange.

**75.** (D) Mahapadma Nanda
This powerful monarch is often considered the first true imperial ruler in Indian history. He overthrew the existing dynasties and consolidated a vast territory under his centralized control. His reign was marked by the creation of a massive standing army and a sophisticated taxation system. His successful campaigns against regional rivals established a formidable power that paved the way for the later unification of the entire subcontinent.

**76.** (B) Condensed, aphoristic texts summarizing ritual and philosophy
As the body of sacred knowledge grew increasingly complex, there arose a need for a more concise and structured format for teaching. This led to the creation of a specific genre of literature characterized by very brief, mnemonic-style statements. These works organized vast amounts of information regarding domestic rites, public sacrifices, and social laws into a manageable system that could be easily memorized and transmitted.

**77.** (C) The destruction of fragmented states, paving the way for unification
The Macedonian campaign in the northwest had a significant impact on the local political structure. By defeating various small kingdoms and tribal principalities, the invasion weakened the regional powers that had previously resisted centralized control. This created a political vacuum and reduced opposition, which was later exploited by ambitious leaders in the heartland to consolidate these territories into a single, vast empire.

**78.** (D) Iron was extensively used for making agricultural tools and weapons.
This ancient urban civilization was a Bronze Age society, characterized by the use of copper and its alloys for manufacturing various implements and ornaments. While they possessed sophisticated technology for urban planning, water management, and trade, they did not have knowledge of the metal that would later revolutionize agriculture and warfare. The widespread use of this harder metal only occurred several centuries after this civilization had declined.

NODIA

**79.** (A) Gods, sages, and ancestors
In the ancient tradition, human life was viewed as being interconnected with various cosmic and social forces. Every individual was believed to be born with inherent obligations that must be settled through proper actions. These include performing rituals for divine powers, studying and preserving the knowledge passed down by wise teachers, and ensuring the continuity of the family lineage through responsible domestic life and ancestral ceremonies.

**80.** (B) Neolithic and Chalcolithic
The origins of farming and settled existence are the primary focus of research into early food-producing societies. This transition began when human groups started domesticating plants and animals, leading to the formation of permanent villages. The subsequent period introduced the first use of metal alongside stone, further enhancing agricultural efficiency and social complexity. Together, these phases represent the foundational shift from nomadic life to agrarian civilization.

**81.** (B) Decisions were made in an assembly by members of the Kshatriya clan.
In these specific political entities, authority was not concentrated in a single hereditary monarch. Instead, power was shared among a group of aristocratic families or clan members. They gathered in a central meeting hall to deliberate on important matters of state and administration. This collective form of governance distinguished them from the contemporary kingdoms where absolute power was typically held by an individual ruler.

**82.** (A) Fa-Hien
This devoted pilgrim traveled from East Asia to the subcontinent during the early fifth century. His primary mission was to find authentic copies of Buddhist monastic rules. His detailed journal provides a valuable account of the social and religious conditions during the peak of a major imperial dynasty. He observed a prosperous and peaceful society, noting the prevalence of Buddhism and the benevolent nature of the administration.

**83.** (C) Atman (the individual soul) and Brahman (the ultimate reality)
The philosophical core of these ancient texts represents a shift away from external rituals toward internal spiritual inquiry. They explore the fundamental nature of existence and the relationship between the self and the universal essence. The primary goal presented is to achieve a direct realization of the unity between the individual consciousness and the supreme reality, leading to liberation from the cycle of rebirth and suffering.

**84.** (D) Kalibangan - Ploughed field surface
Archaeological excavations at various Indus Valley sites have revealed specific features that indicate different economic and social activities. One site in the northern region provided unique evidence of early agricultural techniques through the discovery of a preserved field with distinct furrow marks. This finding confirms the practice of systematic farming and provides insight into the tools and methods used by ancient communities to produce food.

**85.** (C) Destroyer of all Kshatriyas
This title reflects the aggressive expansionist policies of a powerful monarch who overthrew established royal lineages to consolidate his empire. Traditional accounts describe him as a ruler who eliminated the power of the hereditary warrior class to establish a new, centralized administration. His reign marked a significant departure from earlier political norms and established a formidable state that dominated much of northern India before the rise of the Mauryas.

**86.** (B) Right Devotion
The ethical and mental discipline prescribed by this tradition consists of eight specific practices designed to end suffering. These include maintaining correct understanding, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration. While the path emphasizes internal mental transformation and ethical conduct, it does not focus on the external worship or emotional piety directed toward a personal deity that is characteristic of other religious frameworks.

NODIA

**87.** (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
Contact with the Western empire had a lasting impact on the culture and administration of the subcontinent. The introduction of a specific script for writing became a foundation for local regional alphabets. Furthermore, the concept of an imperial style of governance and certain architectural motifs from the West influenced the development of Indian political ideology, particularly during the era of the first great unified empire.

**88.** (A) The Purusha Sukta in the 10th mandala of the Rigveda
The formal conceptualization of a hierarchical social structure first appears in a specific hymn within the earliest Vedic text. This verse uses a metaphorical description of a primordial being to explain the origin of the four main social classes. It suggests that different groups emerged from various parts of this cosmic figure, providing a religious justification for the specialized roles and status assigned to priests, warriors, commoners, and laborers.

**89.** (C) The fertile environment of the Indus river and its tributaries
The emergence of this ancient urban society was closely linked to its unique geographical setting. The presence of major rivers provided a consistent water supply and deposited fertile silt, which supported intensive agriculture. This productivity created the necessary food surplus to sustain a large non-farming population of artisans, traders, and administrators. The river network also served as a vital highway for internal transport and external trade.

**90.** (A) Jainism
This philosophical principle emphasizes that truth and reality are complex and can be viewed from multiple perspectives. It suggests that no single viewpoint can fully capture the absolute truth, which is many-sided. By accepting that others may have a valid but partial understanding of reality, this doctrine promotes intellectual humility and tolerance. It remains one of the most distinctive and influential contributions of this tradition to Indian thought.

**91.** (D) Popular deliberative assemblies
The early political life of the Vedic tribes was characterized by these two important institutions. They provided a platform for the community to discuss important issues, including war, peace, and the distribution of resources. One functioned as a more specialized body of elites, while the other represented a broader cross-section of the tribe. Their existence indicates that the power of the early tribal chief was not absolute but was moderated by collective consensus.

**92.** (B) The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea
This first-century maritime manual provides a detailed account of the commercial world of the Indian Ocean. Written by an anonymous Greek-speaking sailor, it lists various ports along the Indian coastline and describes the goods traded there, such as spices, textiles, and precious stones. It offers invaluable information about the economic links between the Mediterranean world and the subcontinent, highlighting the sophisticated nature of ancient international trade.

**93.** (C) Indra
As the Vedic people transitioned from a mobile, pastoral life to a settled agricultural existence, their religious priorities also evolved. The powerful deity who was previously celebrated for his military prowess and control over storms began to lose his supreme position. He was gradually eclipsed by other divine figures who represented cosmic creation, preservation, and destruction, reflecting the changing needs and philosophical outlook of a more settled and complex society.

**94.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The political geography of ancient India was defined by several major territorial states, each with its own significant urban center. These cities functioned as hubs for administration, religion, and commerce. Some were located along major river routes, while others served as strategic points on overland trade paths. The relationship between these states and their specific capitals is a fundamental aspect of understanding the regional dynamics of the Mahajanapada period.

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**95.** (A) Shishunaga
After the decline of the previous ruling family, a former high official established a new dynasty that continued the expansion of the kingdom. He is particularly noted for his role in finally subduing a long-standing regional rival. His decision to temporarily relocate the administrative center reflects a strategic response to contemporary political challenges and a desire to consolidate control over newly acquired territories in the fertile northern plains.

**96.** (B) It completely rejects the Doctrine of Karma.
This tradition possesses a highly developed and unique understanding of how actions influence the soul. It views karmic matter as a subtle physical substance that adheres to the soul due to passions and actions, hindering its natural purity. The primary goal of spiritual practice is to stop the influx of new matter and eliminate existing bonds through ethical conduct, non-violence, and rigorous self-discipline to achieve ultimate liberation.

**97.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Macedonian expedition encountered a significant obstacle when it reached the central regions of the northwest. The troops, who had been away from their homes for nearly a decade, were weary of constant warfare. Furthermore, they were deeply concerned about the reports of a massive army in the east that possessed a large number of formidable war elephants. This combination of physical exhaustion and psychological fear led to a decisive refusal to continue.

**98.** (A) The initiation of a boy into the stage of studentship (Brahmacharya)
This significant rite of passage marks a formal transition in an individual's life within the traditional social framework. It involves the symbolic bestowing of a sacred thread and signifies the beginning of a period of disciplined study under a teacher. During this phase, the individual is expected to live a simple, celibate life focused on learning the ancient scriptures and acquiring the skills necessary for their future role in society.

**99.** (C) Mehrgarh
Archaeological evidence from this site in the northwestern frontier provides the earliest traces of farming in the subcontinent. Excavations have revealed that ancient communities there began cultivating wheat and barley and domesticating cattle and sheep as early as the seventh millennium B.C. These findings are crucial for understanding the transition from a mobile hunting life to a settled agricultural existence, marking the dawn of civilization in the region.

**100.** (B) 1 and 2 only
Material remains provide a robust foundation for historical reconstruction. Inscriptions are valued because they are often contemporary with the events they describe and are less likely to have been altered over time. Similarly, the study of coins offers precise data on economic conditions and the extent of various kingdoms. However, physical structures like temples and stupas are also vital sources, as they reflect the religious beliefs and artistic styles of their era.

NODIA

**101.** (C) Detailed explanations of rituals and symbolism
This category of Vedic literature serves as a practical guide for the performance of complex sacrifices. They provide step-by-step instructions for various ceremonies and offer mythological and symbolic interpretations for each action. These texts were essential for the priestly class to maintain the correct ritual procedures and were believed to ensure the efficacy of the offerings made to the divine powers to sustain the cosmic order.

**102.** (B) Tectonic shifts and changes in river courses
The decline of this ancient urban civilization is often attributed to major shifts in the local environment. Geological activity likely caused significant changes in the flow of the rivers that provided the lifeblood for these cities. Some rivers may have dried up, while others changed their course or caused devastating floods. These environmental transformations disrupted agriculture and transport, ultimately making it impossible for large urban populations to sustain themselves.

**103.** (D) A unit of currency
As the economy became more complex and settled, the nature of wealth and exchange also transformed. An object that was originally valued as a prestigious ornament evolved into a more standardized measure of value. This change reflects the transition toward a more monetized system where specific weights of precious metals were used to facilitate trade and large-scale transactions. It indicates a growing sophistication in economic thought and practice during the later period.

**104.** (A) Vajji
This prominent political entity in northern India was not governed by a single king but by a collective of multiple clans. They functioned as a powerful confederacy where decisions were made through deliberation in a central assembly. One specific clan held significant influence within this group. Their unique system of governance and their strategic location made them a major regional power that frequently interacted with neighboring monarchies and prominent spiritual leaders.

**105.** (C) Suffering (Dukkha) and its cessation
The foundational teachings of this tradition focus on a systematic diagnosis of the human condition. They assert that existence is fundamentally characterized by various forms of dissatisfaction and pain. By identifying the root cause in craving and attachment, these principles offer a specific path to achieve a state of permanent peace. This approach provides a practical framework for individual transformation and the ultimate ending of the cycle of rebirth.

**106.** (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The two great Indian narratives are categorized as works based on tradition and memory rather than direct revelation. Although they were compiled and expanded over many centuries, they offer a rich tapestry of information about the social norms, political ideals, and religious practices of ancient times. They serve as encyclopedic sources that reflect the evolving cultural landscape and provide a moral framework that has influenced the subcontinent for generations.

**107.** (D) Greece
The artistic style that emerged in the northwestern region was a unique product of cultural interaction. It combined local religious themes with the aesthetic techniques and realistic representations characteristic of the Hellenistic world. This fusion is most visible in the depiction of spiritual figures with physical features and clothing styles typical of Western art. This school illustrates the deep cultural impact of long-term contact between the subcontinent and Mediterranean civilizations.

**108.** (B) The four legitimate aims of human existence
This framework provides a balanced approach to life by identifying four essential pursuits. It acknowledges the importance of ethical duty and righteousness, the necessity of acquiring material wealth and security, the fulfillment of emotional and physical desires, and the ultimate aspiration for spiritual liberation. By integrating these different goals, the system offers a comprehensive guide for an individual to lead a meaningful and well-rounded life within society.

**109.** (C) Xuanzang
This seventh-century traveler provides one of the most detailed and reliable accounts of medieval Indian life. His writings offer a thorough description of the administration, social customs, and educational systems of the time. He specifically highlights the functioning of a world-renowned center of learning, describing its curriculum, the high standards of scholarship, and the generous patronage it received. His journal remains a primary source for understanding the cultural peak of this era.

**110.** (D) The absence versus the presence of a writing system
Historical periods are categorized based on the nature of the evidence available. The earliest phase is studied solely through material remains because no form of writing existed. The following stage is characterized by societies that possessed a script, but because it has not yet been deciphered, researchers must still rely heavily on archaeology. The final phase begins when written records can be fully understood, providing a more detailed narrative of the past.

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**111.** (A) Lothal
This significant site in the western region of the subcontinent was a major center for maritime trade during the Bronze Age. The discovery of a large, man-made basin with an inlet connected to a nearby river suggests it functioned as a sophisticated port. This facility allowed the civilization to conduct extensive international commerce by sea. The site also yielded various artifacts like beads and seals, further confirming its role as a prosperous commercial hub.

**112.** (B) Lineage or descent from a common ancestor
As the social structure evolved during the later period, the concept of identity based on kinship became more formalized. A term that originally referred to a shared enclosure for cattle transformed into a marker of common heritage. It designated a group of people who claimed descent from a specific legendary sage. This system became an important factor in regulating social relations, particularly in determining marriage rules and maintaining clan solidarity.

**113.** (A) Control over the iron ore deposits and trade routes
The rivalry between these two powerful states was primarily driven by strategic and economic interests. Both sought to dominate the fertile plains and the vital commercial paths that connected the various regions of the north. Furthermore, access to essential mineral resources was crucial for maintaining military superiority and agricultural productivity. The competition for these resources led to a series of conflicts that eventually resulted in the dominance of one over the other.

**114.** (A) Buddhism
This central doctrine advocates for a balanced approach to spiritual life. It suggests avoiding the extremes of excessive self-indulgence and the severe physical hardship of extreme asceticism. By following this moderate course, a practitioner can achieve clarity of mind and ethical stability. This principle is presented as the most effective way to attain enlightenment and is a key feature that distinguished this tradition from other contemporary philosophical schools.

NODIA

**115.** (C) Mention the Indus region as part of the Persian Empire
Written records from a powerful Western empire provide crucial evidence of its expansion into the subcontinent. These inscriptions list the various provinces under imperial control, including the wealthy regions near the major river of the northwest. This confirmation is vital for establishing the political history of the area and understanding the early international contacts that facilitated the exchange of administrative practices, scripts, and commercial goods between India and the West.

**116.** (D) Guru Rina
Ancient thought identified three primary moral obligations that every individual is born with and must fulfill through proper actions. These include duties toward the divine, the wise sages who preserved sacred knowledge, and the ancestral line. By performing rituals, studying the scriptures, and continuing the family, a person settles these inherent debts. This framework provided an ethical structure for life, ensuring that individuals remained connected to their spiritual and physical heritage.

**117.** (C) Mehrgarh - Earliest evidence of rice cultivation
While archaeological sites provide essential data on prehistoric life, it is important to accurately identify their specific contributions. One famous site in the northwestern frontier is celebrated for being the earliest center for farming wheat and barley in the region, rather than a different crop. Such distinctions are critical for understanding the regional variations in early agriculture and how different environmental conditions influenced the subsistence strategies of ancient communities across the subcontinent.

**118.** (B) Mohenjo-daro
A unique artifact found in one of the major Indus cities depicts a figure in a meditative pose surrounded by several different animals. This image is significant because it is often interpreted as an early prototype of a major deity who would become central to later religious traditions. The seal provides a rare glimpse into the spiritual beliefs and iconography of the Bronze Age urbanites, suggesting themes of nature, mastery over creatures, and meditation.

**119.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The life of the early Vedic tribes was deeply centered on their animals and the land. Their economy was primarily built around raising livestock, particularly cattle, supplemented by basic farming. Cattle were so vital that they served as the standard measure of value and the primary cause of tribal disputes. This close relationship with nature and animals is vividly reflected in their hymns and their social organization.

**120.** (A) Ajatashatru
This aggressive monarch is known for his military prowess and the introduction of advanced weaponry. To secure his dominance over regional rivals, he employed innovative technology, including specialized chariots equipped with rotating blades and powerful engines for hurlings massive stones. These military advancements, combined with his strategic fortification of the capital, played a crucial role in the expansion and consolidation of his kingdom's power in northern India.

**121.** (A) IV, I, II, III
The historical sequence of ancient India follows a transition from urban Bronze Age civilization to a more rural and then a second urban phase. After the decline of the early cities, a period began characterized by the composition of the earliest sacred hymns. This was followed by the adoption of a new metal that transformed agriculture. Finally, these developments culminated in the emergence of large territorial states and the re-emergence of complex urban life.

**122.** (A) Buddhism
This fundamental philosophical teaching explains the nature of reality as a complex web of interconnected causes and effects. It asserts that everything arises in dependence on certain conditions and ceases when those conditions are removed. This principle is used to explain the cycle of suffering and rebirth, providing a logical framework for understanding how ignorance leads to attachment and how enlightenment can be achieved by breaking this chain of dependency.

**123.** (D) Aramaic
The contact with the Western empire introduced a specific administrative script that was widely used across their vast territories. Over time, this script was adapted by local scribes in the northwestern regions of the subcontinent to write Indian languages. The resulting script became prominent for several centuries and was used for various royal edicts and commercial records. This evolution illustrates the deep and lasting cultural impact of ancient international political and economic interactions.

**124.** (C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
Ancient Indian literature is highly diverse, with different genres serving specialized functions. Aphoristic manuals provided guidelines for domestic life, while massive poetic narratives captured the history and moral lessons of the heroic age. The core teachings of a major spiritual tradition were organized into three main collections. Meanwhile, specialized secular texts offered comprehensive treatises on subjects like statecraft and administration. This variety reflects a sophisticated and multi-faceted intellectual culture.

**125.** (C) Mahayana
This spiritual ideal gained immense popularity within a specific branch of the Buddhist tradition. It represents an enlightened being who, out of profound compassion, chooses to remain in the cycle of rebirth to assist all others in achieving liberation. This concept transformed the earlier focus on individual escape from suffering into a more universal and altruistic goal. It became a major theme in religious art, literature, and devotional practices across the subcontinent and beyond.

**126.** (D) The Grihya Sutras
These specialized texts serve as practical manuals for the daily life of an ancient Indian householder. They provide detailed instructions for various domestic rituals, rites of passage, and social ceremonies that mark significant moments from birth to death. By studying these works, historians can gain a deep understanding of the family structure, social customs, and ethical expectations that governed the lives of ordinary people during the later Vedic and post-Vedic periods.

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**127.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
One of the greatest challenges in understanding the ancient urban civilization of the Indus Valley is the lack of a readable written record. Although thousands of inscriptions have been found, they are typically very brief and consist of symbols that have not been successfully translated. Furthermore, the absence of any document that provides a translation into a known language makes it extremely difficult for scholars to unlock the meaning of the pictographic symbols.

**128.** (B) To advise the king and perform major sacrifices
In the early Vedic political and religious framework, this high official held a position of significant influence. He served as the primary spiritual advisor to the tribal chief, offering guidance on both religious and worldly matters. His most important duty was the correct performance of elaborate sacrifices believed to ensure the protection and prosperity of the tribe. His role highlight the close connection between political authority and religious ritual in ancient society.

**129.** (B) Ajatashatru
The expansion of the kingdom of Magadha involved intense conflict with neighboring powers. One significant achievement was the long and difficult struggle against a powerful confederacy of clans. Through a combination of strategic military innovations and diplomatic intrigue, the monarch eventually succeeded in breaking their unity and annexing their territory. This victory was a major milestone that significantly increased the resources and territorial extent of the growing Magadhan empire.

**130.** (A) 1 and 2 only
The social organization that developed in ancient India was based on two interconnected systems. One classified society into four main functional groups, while the other divided an individual's life into four distinct spiritual stages. While the foundations for these concepts were present in early texts, they became more rigid and formalized during the later periods. Each component provided a set of duties and goals designed to maintain social order and individual spiritual growth.

NODIA

**131.** (C) Agamas
The primary sacred texts of this ancient tradition contain the teachings of its twenty-four great guides. These works cover a wide range of subjects, including philosophy, cosmology, ethics, and monastic discipline. They were preserved through a long oral tradition before being formally compiled in various councils. These writings serve as the ultimate authority for practitioners, providing the doctrinal foundation for their beliefs and practices, emphasizing non-violence and the nature of the soul.

**132.** (D) Persians
This specific administrative system was introduced to the subcontinent through contact with a major Western empire. It involved dividing large territories into provinces, each governed by an official who held significant military and administrative authority. This model of decentralized yet accountable governance influenced several subsequent dynasties in India. It highlights how international political interactions led to the adoption of new organizational techniques that shaped the future administrative history of the region.

**133.** (C) A period for which written records exist, but have not yet been deciphered.
This historical phase represents a unique bridge between the earliest pre-literate times and the later recorded history. It refers to societies that possessed a system of writing, but because modern scholars cannot yet read their script, their history must still be reconstructed primarily through archaeological evidence. The most prominent example in the subcontinent is the urban Bronze Age civilization of the Indus Valley, where extensive written remains await translation.

**134.** (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
A scholar from the Islamic world produced a remarkable analytical study of eleventh-century India. This work provides a comprehensive overview of Indian society, sciences, and philosophical systems. The author was a deeply learned individual who spent years studying Sanskrit and interacting with local intellectuals.

His objective and systematic account offers an invaluable outsider's perspective on the subcontinent during a period of significant cultural and scientific achievement, far removed from the earlier Greco-Roman diplomatic missions.

**135.** (D) The beginning of agriculture and settled life
This fundamental transformation in human history is defined by the shift from a mobile hunting and gathering existence to a more sedentary lifestyle. It occurred when people began to domesticate plants and animals, allowing them to produce their own food. This economic change led to the creation of permanent villages, the development of new technologies like pottery, and the emergence of more complex social and political structures that formed the basis for future civilizations.

**136.** (A) Construction of megalithic tombs
The most developed phase of this ancient civilization is defined by highly advanced urban features. These include carefully planned cities with consistent grid layouts and sophisticated systems for water and waste management. They also utilized standardized building materials and possessed a unique, albeit undeciphered, writing system. While other contemporary cultures in the subcontinent practiced building large stone monuments for burials, this specific urban society focused its creative energies on civil engineering and craft production.

**137.** (C) A guild of merchants or craftsmen
The economic expansion during the age of territorial states was supported by the organization of professionals into specialized groups. These bodies functioned as self-governing associations that regulated the standards, prices, and training within a particular trade or craft. They played a vital role in facilitating commerce, managing resources, and even serving as banks. Their existence indicates a high degree of economic specialization and social organization within the growing urban centers of the period.

**138.** (A) Ajatashatru
Shortly after the passing of a major spiritual leader, a significant gathering was organized to preserve his teachings. This event took place under the sponsorship of a powerful monarch who provided the necessary resources and protection. The purpose was to chant and codify the discourses and monastic rules to ensure they were accurately transmitted to future generations. This assembly played a crucial role in establishing the doctrinal foundation for the newly founded religious community.

**139.** (D) The establishment of a direct link between India and the West
Although the Macedonian military campaign in the subcontinent was relatively short, its consequences for international interaction were profound. By establishing new routes and several Greek settlements, the invasion opened consistent channels for trade and cultural exchange between India and the Mediterranean world. This facilitated the movement of goods, ideas, and artistic styles for centuries to come, broadening the cultural horizons of both regions and fostering long-term diplomatic and commercial relationships.

**140.** (B) Rit
In the ancient Vedic worldview, the universe was believed to be governed by a fundamental principle of cosmic and moral order. This concept encompassed the regular cycles of nature as well as the ethical conduct expected of all beings. Deities were seen as the protectors of this harmony, and human rituals were intended to align earthly actions with this supreme law. It represented an early philosophical attempt to explain the underlying regularity and moral structure of existence.

**141.** (C) Kharavela of Kalinga
A significant historical record from the eastern coast provides a detailed account of a powerful ruler's achievements. This inscription, carved in a cave, chronicles his military victories, administrative reforms, and support for religious traditions. It offers invaluable information about the regional history of the area and the interactions between different kingdoms. Such epigraphic sources are vital for reconstructing the lives of prominent leaders whose histories might otherwise be incomplete in the literary records.

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**142.** (D) Beginning of the use of metal, specifically copper
The transition from the late stone age to this subsequent period is defined by a technological breakthrough. While communities continued to use lithic tools, they also began to manufacture implements and ornaments from a soft metal. This introduction of metallurgy allowed for more specialized craftsmanship and indicates growing knowledge of natural resources. This phase was also characterized by a more settled agricultural life and the development of distinct regional pottery styles across different parts of the subcontinent.

**143.** (A) The discovery of a large brick dockyard at Lothal
One of the most compelling pieces of evidence for the maritime capabilities of this ancient civilization is a unique structure found at a site in the west. This massive, baked-brick basin was carefully engineered to manage water levels, suggesting it served as a facility for berthing and repairing ships. Such an advanced structure, located near a river outlet to the sea, confirms that these ancient urbanites were actively involved in long-distance international commerce by water.

**144.** (B) A tribal chieftainship where the 'Rajan' had limited powers
The political organization of the early Vedic groups was based on kinship and consensus rather than absolute authority. The leader was chosen primarily for his military skills and his ability to protect the community. His decisions were often moderated by assemblies of the tribe, and his power was not yet tied to a fixed territory. This decentralized and semi-democratic structure reflected the needs of a mobile, pastoral society that valued tribal solidarity and collective deliberation.

**145.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The transition from one major dynasty to another in the northeast was driven by both political ambition and internal dissatisfaction. The existing rulers had accumulated immense wealth but were widely disliked due to their oppressive policies and high taxes. This unpopularity created an opportunity for a visionary leader, supported by a brilliant strategist, to overthrow the established power. This successful campaign led to the creation of the most extensive and unified empire in ancient Indian history.

**146.** (A) Has conquered the cycle of rebirth and shows the path to others
In this spiritual tradition, specific individuals are revered as supreme guides who have attained the ultimate state of liberation. They are believed to have overcome all worldly attachments and discovered the truth of existence. By sharing this knowledge, they create a bridge or a ford that allows others to cross the ocean of suffering. They are the primary objects of devotion and serves as models of perfect ethical conduct and spiritual wisdom.

**147.** (C) A period marked by aphoristic manuals on ritual and law
As the religious and social practices of ancient India became increasingly complex, there was a need for a more structured and manageable way to transmit this knowledge. This led to a period characterized by the composition of very brief, mnemonic-style texts. These works organized vast amounts of information regarding sacrificial procedures, domestic rites, and social duties into a concise format. This systematic approach allowed for the efficient preservation and teaching of traditional wisdom in an evolving society.

**148.** (D) Employing Indian infantry and cavalry in his war against the Greeks
The interactions between the Western empire and the subcontinent extended beyond administration and trade into the military sphere. During major conflicts in the Mediterranean world, the imperial armies of the West included specialized units from their eastern provinces, including the Indian regions near the Indus. This presence indicates the integration of these areas into a broader international system and provides early historical accounts of the skill and equipment used by soldiers from the Indian subcontinent.

**149.** (C) Grihastha (householder)
Within the traditional framework of life stages, the period of social and family responsibility was seen as the most vital for maintaining the cosmic and social order. An individual in this phase was expected to perform five specific daily rituals.

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These included honoring the divine, the ancestors, the wise sages, fellow human beings through hospitality, and all other living creatures. These obligations reflected the interconnectedness of life and the individual's role in sustaining the harmony of the entire world.

**150.** (B) Chandragupta Maurya
This Greco-Roman diplomat was sent as an ambassador to the court of a major Indian monarch following a period of conflict and subsequent treaty between the two powers. His detailed account of the capital city, the administration, and the social conditions of the time provides an invaluable external perspective on the early years of the first great unified empire. Although his original writings have been lost, fragments preserved by later historians remain a primary source for the era.

**151.** (D) The creation of microliths
This transitional prehistoric phase is distinguished by a significant advancement in tool-making technology. Humans began to produce very small, precisely shaped stone implements that were often mounted on bone or wood to create more complex and efficient tools and weapons. This shift reflects a change in hunting strategies and resource management, allowing for better adaptation to a changing environment and the diverse wildlife that emerged following the end of the last major ice age.

**152.** (A) The widespread presence of large temples and palaces
While the cities of this ancient civilization were remarkably sophisticated in their layout and public infrastructure, they lack the massive monuments dedicated to individual rulers or specific deities that are common in other contemporary societies. The focus of their architecture was primarily on practical urban planning, including standardized residential areas, large granaries for storage, and advanced systems for water and waste management. This suggests a society organized around public welfare and commercial activity rather than centralized religious or monarchical glorification.

**153.** (C) Parushni (Ravi)
This significant conflict mentioned in the earliest Vedic hymns involved a struggle between a coalition of various tribes and a specific prominent group. The battle was fought on the banks of a major river in the northwest. It serves as an important historical record of the internal rivalries and the process of tribal consolidation among the early Aryan groups. The victory of one side helped to establish its dominance and contributed to the later political development of the region.

**154.** (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Ancient Indian literature includes a genre of concise manuals that organized various aspects of life and knowledge. These works covered domestic rituals and ceremonies, procedures for large public sacrifices, and the legal and ethical duties of different social groups. Additionally, some texts provided the technical knowledge necessary for constructing ritual spaces, including early principles of mathematics and geometry. This systematic approach to diverse subjects reflects a highly organized and intellectual culture focused on ritual precision and social order.

**155.** (D) Udayin
The strategic move to establish a new administrative center at the confluence of two major rivers was a significant political decision. This location provided exceptional natural defenses and facilitated control over the vital trade and communication routes along the river valleys. The city founded by this monarch eventually grew into one of the most important and prosperous urban centers in ancient India, serving as the capital for several subsequent great empires and a major hub for religious and intellectual activity.

NODIA

**156.** (B) Desire and attachment
The foundational analysis of the human condition in this tradition identifies the root of suffering not as an external force but as an internal mental state. It asserts that dissatisfaction and pain arise from an insatiable craving for permanence and the constant pursuit of worldly pleasures and attachments. By understanding this cause, an individual can follow a specific ethical and mental path to eliminate these cravings, leading to a state of peace and liberation from the cycle of rebirth.

**157.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The sixth century B.C. was a period of intense intellectual and spiritual fermentation in northern India. Numerous new philosophical schools and religious movements emerged, many of which challenged the established authority and the ritualistic focus of the existing traditions. These heterodox groups emphasized individual ethical conduct, mental discipline, and social equality. This environment of critical inquiry and the rise of new spiritual paths profoundly transformed the cultural and religious landscape of the subcontinent.

**158.** (D) Darius III
The era of Persian influence in the northwestern part of the subcontinent came to an end following the collapse of their central imperial authority. This occurred when their last monarch was decisively defeated by a powerful Macedonian invader. The fall of this Western empire removed the existing administrative framework from the region, creating a political vacuum that facilitated the subsequent campaigns of the new conqueror and eventually paved the way for the rise of indigenous powers.

**159.** (A) Marriage
Among the various sacraments or rites of passage in the traditional social framework, this ceremony is one of the most significant. It marks the formal union of two individuals and signifies their entry into the stage of life focused on family and social responsibility. This rite is considered essential for the continuity of the family line and the maintenance of social stability. It involves a series of complex rituals that have been preserved for centuries, reflecting its enduring cultural importance.

**160.** (C) 2 and 3 only
The political institutions of ancient India underwent significant change as society transitioned from a mobile tribal structure to settled territorial kingdoms. In the early period, popular assemblies played a vital role in advising the leader and making collective decisions. However, as the power of the monarch grew and became more centralized, the influence of these community bodies began to decline. The leader's authority became increasingly absolute, supported by an expanding administrative and military structure that replaced tribal consensus.

**161.** (B) Sidi Ali Reis
Information about ancient maritime trade and geographical knowledge is often found in the accounts of experienced sailors and navigators. One such source, written by a professional mariner from a distant naval power, provides valuable descriptions of the coastal regions and the sea routes connecting India with the Western and Middle Eastern worlds. These records offer a practical perspective on the challenges of navigation and the flourishing commercial activity that characterized the international waters surrounding the subcontinent for centuries.

**162.** (A) Pleistocene
Most of the long history of human prehistory took place during a specific geological epoch characterized by major climate fluctuations and a series of cold periods. This environment significantly influenced the development of early human cultures, their migration patterns, and their technological adaptations. As groups moved to follow animal herds and adapt to changing vegetation, they developed the stone tools and subsistence strategies that define the various phases of the Paleolithic age before the arrival of the modern, warmer climate.

**163.** (C) Certain elements of Harappan culture continued in later Indian civilization.
While the urban centers of the Indus Valley eventually declined and were abandoned, the legacy of this ancient civilization was not completely lost. Many of its technological innovations, religious symbols, and artistic motifs were integrated into the subsequent cultures that emerged in the subcontinent. This cultural continuity is visible in later religious practices, agricultural techniques, and certain social customs. It suggests that the achievements of the first great urban society in India laid a foundational layer for the future development of its diverse civilization.

**164.** (D) The corpus of Vedic texts including the Samhitas
The primary evidence for reconstructing the history of the earliest period after the decline

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of the Indus cities comes from a vast body of sacred literature. These works, consisting of hymns, rituals, and philosophical treatises, were preserved through a meticulous oral tradition before being written down. They provide a unique window into the language, social structure, religious beliefs, and political life of the tribes as they settled in the northern parts of the subcontinent, forming a foundational record of early Indian culture.

**165.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The geopolitical situation of the major states in northern India was diverse. One powerful kingdom in the northeast was located deep in the interior, relying on its control over river valleys and mineral resources. Meanwhile, another neighboring state was situated along a major river that served as a vital artery for transport and commerce. This location made it a prominent center for riverine trade, facilitating economic growth and cultural exchange between the various regions of the fertile plains.

**166.** (B) No-self or no-soul
This core philosophical doctrine challenges the idea of a permanent, unchanging essence within an individual. It asserts that what is commonly perceived as a 'self' is actually a collection of changing physical and mental processes. By realizing that there is no eternal soul, a person can overcome attachment and the craving that leads to suffering. This concept distinguished this tradition from many others and provided a unique approach to achieving spiritual liberation and peace.

**167.** (D) Southern Bihar and Jharkhand
The ascent of this kingdom to regional dominance was significantly aided by its proximity to vital natural resources. The availability of abundant mineral deposits in the neighboring highland regions allowed for the large-scale production of high-quality tools and weapons. This technological advantage was crucial for clearing forests to expand agriculture and for maintaining a powerful military. This combination of fertile land and strategic resources provided the economic and military foundation for the kingdom's expansion into a major empire.

**168.** (A) Ashokan edicts
Physical remains and contemporary inscriptions are vital sources for historical reconstruction. Unlike literary works that may have been edited or expanded over centuries, writings carved into stone or metal at a specific time provide a direct and authentic record of royal policies, territorial extent, and religious beliefs. These public declarations offer a clear and reliable window into the administration and the ideological motivations of an ancient ruler, helping to verify and supplement information found in other sources.

**169.** (C) The entire Indian subcontinent, conceived as a distinct unit
Ancient Indian thought developed a concept of the region that transcended small tribal or regional boundaries. It envisioned the entire landmass as a unified geographical and cultural space. This perspective was rooted in a shared cultural tradition and a recognition of the natural boundaries that define the subcontinent. This idealistic conception provided a sense of collective identity that persisted despite the political fragmentation of the area into numerous kingdoms and states over various periods.

NODIA

**170.** (A) Rina (Debt)
The traditional framework for human development identifies four primary goals that provide a balanced and meaningful life. These include ethical conduct and duty, the pursuit of material well-being, the fulfillment of emotional and sensory desires, and the ultimate aim of spiritual liberation. While the idea of inherent moral obligations is an important concept in the tradition, it is distinct from this specific set of legitimate aspirations that guide an individual's actions throughout their life in the world.

**171.** (D) Sabha and Samiti
In the early political organization of the Vedic groups, authority was shared between the tribal leader and two important community bodies. One functioned as a more specialized assembly of elders and prominent members, while the other was a broader gathering of the entire tribe. These institutions provided a check on the leader's power and were essential for making collective decisions regarding war, peace, and social matters. Their existence reflects a semi-

democratic and consultative form of governance in early tribal society.

**172.** (B) Brahmacharya (Celibacy)
The ethical code of this spiritual tradition was gradually refined and expanded by its successive great teachers. An earlier guide had established four primary vows for practitioners, including non-violence, truthfulness, and non-stealing. The final great guide added a fifth vow emphasizing the importance of complete self-restraint and the renunciation of worldly attachments. This addition strengthened the monastic discipline and became a core part of the comprehensive moral framework that practitioners follow to achieve spiritual liberation and eliminate karmic bonds.

**173.** (C) The Mahajanapada Period
The archaeological record of a specific era is defined by the appearance of a high-quality, polished pottery style and the first widespread use of metal coins with struck symbols. These features, along with the remains of large fortified settlements, indicate a period of significant urban growth, economic monetization, and political consolidation. This phase corresponds to the rise of powerful territorial states in the northern plains, marking a major transition toward a more complex and urbanized society after the earlier rural period.

**174.** (C) Persian inscriptions like the Behistun inscription
Evidence for the early international contacts of the subcontinent is found in the contemporary records of a major Western empire. These official documents, carved in stone, list the various provinces and territories that had been brought under imperial control, including the regions of the northwest near the Indus. These records provide a reliable historical anchor for the timing and extent of foreign influence in the area, helping to bridge the gap between indigenous accounts and the history of neighboring civilizations.

**175.** (A) Householder
Within the traditional system of life stages, this period is considered the foundation of society. It is the time when an individual marries, raises a family, and pursues an occupation to support themselves and contribute to the community. This stage is marked by numerous social and religious responsibilities, including performing rituals and supporting those in other stages of life. It emphasizes the importance of social engagement and the fulfillment of worldly duties as a necessary part of a complete and balanced life.

**176.** (B) Greco-Roman accounts often highlight India's wealth and trade.
The writings of ancient Western travelers and historians provide a unique outside view of the subcontinent. These records frequently emphasize the immense natural riches, the flourishing international commerce, and the sophisticated urban centers they encountered. While these accounts may sometimes contain exaggerations or cultural misunderstandings, they offer invaluable data on the economic links between India and the Mediterranean world. They help historians understand the global role of the subcontinent in ancient trade networks and its reputation in the distant classical world.

**177.** (A) Mehrgarh
While the transition to farming occurred in various regions, a specific site in the northwest provides the most ancient and continuous record of this process in the subcontinent. Excavations have shown how early communities there successfully domesticated local plants and animals as far back as the seventh millennium B.C. This evidence supports the idea that agricultural techniques developed independently in different parts of the world, adapting to specific local environments and resources to create the foundations for early settled civilization.

**178.** (A) A unique and complex water harvesting system
One of the most remarkable features of this ancient city in the western region is its sophisticated engineering for managing water. Located in an area with limited rainfall, the inhabitants designed a complex system of massive reservoirs and channels to collect and store every drop of water from the seasonal streams. This innovative approach to resource management allowed a large urban population to thrive in a challenging environment. It demonstrates the high degree of technical skill and central organization possessed by this urban civilization.

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**179.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The later period saw a profound transformation in the nature of political authority. As small tribal units evolved into larger territorial kingdoms, the role of the leader became increasingly powerful and prestigious. To symbolize this new status, elaborate and lengthy royal ceremonies were developed. These rituals were intended to bestow divine legitimacy on the monarch and demonstrate his supreme power over the land and the people. This shift marked the transition toward a more centralized and autocratic form of governance.

**180.** (D) Sravasti
One of the most influential states in northern India during the sixth century B.C. was governed from a major urban center that served as a hub for both political and religious activity. This city was a frequent destination for prominent spiritual teachers and became an important center for their early communities. Its strategic location and prosperity made it a key player in the regional power dynamics of the time, reflecting the growth of complex urban civilization in the fertile river valleys of the north.

**181.** (A) II, I, III, IV
The history of foreign contact with the northwestern parts of the subcontinent followed a sequence of various groups arriving over several centuries. The first significant influence came from a major Western empire, followed later by the campaigns of a Macedonian invader. Subsequently, other groups from Central and Western Asia, including those influenced by Hellenistic culture and nomadic tribes, moved into the region. This sequence of interactions deeply influenced the political, artistic, and administrative history of northwestern India during ancient times.

**182.** (B) Vinaya, Sutta, and Abhidhamma Pitakas
The sacred canon of this spiritual tradition is organized into three main collections, often referred to as 'baskets'. One focuses on the rules and discipline for the monastic community, while another contains the discourses and teachings given by the founder. The third provides a systematic and philosophical analysis of the doctrine. Together, these works form the comprehensive authority for the religion, preserving its core message and providing a complete guide for both monks and lay followers.

**183.** (D) The introduction of the Kharosthi script in the northwest
The impact of contact with the major Western empire was particularly visible in the development of communication. The introduction of an administrative script used across that empire led to the creation of a local writing system in the northwestern regions of the subcontinent. This script remained in use for several centuries for royal edicts and commercial documents. It illustrates how international political interactions can lead to lasting cultural and technological changes that influence the future development of regional scripts and administrative practices.

**184.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The technological evolution of prehistoric societies is tracked through the development of different tool styles. The earliest phase used large, crude implements for butchering and gathering. This was followed by a period characterized by very small, precisely shaped stones. Later, the invention of farming led to the production of finely polished stone tools. Finally, the introduction of the first metal, alongside traditional lithic materials, further enhanced the specialized craftsmanship and economic efficiency of these ancient communities as they transitioned toward civilization.

**185.** (C) Upanishads
These ancient philosophical treatises represent the culmination of Vedic thought, focusing on internal spiritual realization rather than external ritual. They explore deep questions about the nature of existence, the self, and the ultimate reality of the universe. Their teachings advocate for achieving liberation through direct knowledge and insight. As the final layer of the sacred knowledge, they have had a profound and lasting influence on all subsequent Indian philosophical and religious traditions, shaping their core spiritual goals.

**186.** (A) Strong support from the powerful republics of the Vajjis and Mallas
The rise of this kingdom to imperial dominance was not a cooperative effort but rather the result of its successful competition against and eventual

NODIA

conquest of its neighbors. Its ascent was driven by exceptional natural resources, a strategic location in the fertile river valleys, and a series of determined and often ruthless monarchs who consolidated power and expanded their territory. This process involved intense political and military struggles, including the defeat of powerful neighboring confederacies that were their primary rivals for regional hegemony.

**187.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The new spiritual movements that emerged in the sixth century B.C. gained significant support from social groups that were often marginalized by the traditional hereditary hierarchy. By emphasizing ethical conduct over birth and rejecting expensive rituals, these traditions offered a higher moral status and a more inclusive religious community. Furthermore, their core principle of non-violence was highly beneficial for trade and commerce, making these new paths especially attractive to the flourishing merchant and artisan classes in the growing urban centers.

**188.** (B) Karma
This fundamental concept in Indian thought posits that every intentional action produces a specific result that influences the individual's future experiences. It serves as a moral law of cause and effect, where a person's current circumstances are seen as the product of their past deeds across multiple lifetimes. This principle provides an ethical framework for personal conduct, emphasizing that individuals are responsible for their own destiny through their thoughts, words, and actions in the world.

**189.** (C) Coins
The scientific study of ancient currency is a vital branch of historical research. By analyzing the metal content, inscriptions, and symbols found on these objects, historians can gain precise information about economic conditions, minting technologies, and the extent of various kingdoms. These physical remains often help to verify the chronological sequences of rulers and provide insights into the artistic and political ideologies of different eras. They serve as contemporary and tangible records of the commercial and political life of the past.

**190.** (A) 3 only
The urban civilization of the Indus Valley is most famously defined by its sophisticated civil engineering and architecture. Their cities featured carefully planned layouts with consistent grid systems and highly advanced public infrastructure for water management and drainage. While they were a Bronze Age society and possessed a unique writing system, they did not have knowledge of the metal that would later revolutionize tools and warfare. Furthermore, despite extensive research, the exact meaning of their pictographic script remains a mystery to modern scholars.

**191.** (A) The Rigvedic social divisions were flexible, whereas the Later Vedic period saw a rigid hereditary varna system.
The social structure of ancient India underwent a profound transformation as tribes settled permanently in fertile regions. In the early period, social roles were based on occupation and were relatively fluid. However, during the later phase, these divisions became increasingly formalized and hereditary. A rigid hierarchy was established, where an individual's status and duties were determined by birth. This change restricted social mobility and created a more structured and unequal society, reflecting the complexities of a settled agricultural and urbanizing community.

**192.** (B) Malla
While many of the major states in northern India during the sixth century B.C. were governed by hereditary kings, several functioned as non-monarchical entities. In these polities, power was shared among a council of elites or a specific clan rather than being concentrated in a single individual. These states illustrate the diversity of political organization in ancient times. They often maintained a strong collective identity and played a significant role in the regional power dynamics and the history of contemporary spiritual movements.

**193.** (B) Jainism
This fundamental philosophical principle suggests that truth and reality are extremely complex and possess multiple aspects. It teaches that any individual viewpoint is necessarily partial and cannot capture the absolute truth. By acknowledging the validity

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of different perspectives, this doctrine promotes intellectual humility and tolerance. It remains a key contribution of this tradition to Indian thought, providing a logical framework for understanding diversity and avoiding dogmatism in philosophical and religious discussions.

**194.** (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The conceptualization of the subcontinent as a distinct and unified region evolved over time in ancient literature. While early texts mention tribal territories, it is in later traditional records that the term is used to describe the entire landmass between the great northern mountains and the ocean. This ideological vision emphasized the geographical boundaries that define the area as a single, significant unit of civilization, providing a conceptual framework for a collective identity that transcended various political divisions.

**195.** (C) Yajna
The traditional social framework includes a series of specific sacraments or rites of passage designed to mark significant transitions in an individual's life. These ceremonies cover events from birth to death, intended to purify and prepare a person for their evolving roles and duties. While performing public or private rituals is an important aspect of religious life, the term refers to the entire act of sacrifice itself rather than to the specific personal ceremonies that define an individual's spiritual journey through life.

**196.** (D) Gupta
This devoted pilgrim from East Asia traveled across the subcontinent during the peak of a major imperial dynasty in the early fifth century. His detailed account provides a valuable window into the social and religious conditions of the time. He observed a prosperous and peaceful society, noting the prevalence of Buddhism and the benevolent nature of the administration. His primary mission was to collect authentic copies of monastic rules, and his writings remain a crucial source for understanding this influential era of Indian history.

**197.** (C) Copper and Stone
This transitional prehistoric phase is defined by a significant technological development. While communities continued to rely heavily on traditional stone tools for many everyday tasks, they also began to manufacture implements and ornaments from a soft metal. This introduction of metallurgy allowed for more specialized craftsmanship and indicates growing knowledge of natural resources. This period saw the growth of settled village communities and the development of distinct regional pottery styles, marking an important step toward more complex social and economic systems.

**198.** (B) The spread of iron technology and agricultural surplus in the Gangetic valley
The re-emergence of complex urban life in northern India after a long period of rural existence was primarily driven by technological advancement. The widespread adoption of a harder metal for tools enabled the clearing of dense vegetation and more effective farming of the fertile river plains. The resulting increase in food production supported a growing population and facilitated specialized trade and crafts. This economic surplus provided the foundation for the rise of new cities and powerful territorial states in the Gangetic region.

**199.** (D) A subdivision of the 'jana'
The early political organization of the Vedic groups was hierarchical and based on kinship. The largest unit was the tribe or the community of people. This larger group was further divided into smaller, more localized units that functioned as basic components of the social and military structure. These subdivisions played a key role in the organization of common activities and provided a framework for the management of resources and the collective defense of the tribal community during their mobile, pastoral phase.

**200.** (A) Strengthening his political position and expanding his influence
This aggressive monarch was the first significant ruler to initiate the expansion of his kingdom through a combination of military conquest and strategic diplomacy. By forming connections with neighboring powerful states through family ties, he secured his frontiers and gained prestigious allies. These strategic moves provided significant political legitimacy and resources, establishing the foundation for the kingdom's future regional dominance and its transformation into a major force in the political landscape of northern India.

NODIA

**201.** (C) Panini's 'Ashtadhyayi'
Non-religious literature provides a different perspective on ancient history compared to liturgical or philosophical texts. This specific category focuses on worldly or secular subjects rather than purely sacrificial matters. A prime example is a foundational treatise on language and grammar, which reflects a high degree of intellectual sophistication and organizational skill. Such works are vital for understanding the broader cultural and educational environment of ancient India, showing that intellectual inquiry extended far beyond religious and ritual concerns.

**202.** (A) Rishabhanatha
In this spiritual tradition, the lineage of great guides begins with a legendary figure who is credited with establishing the foundational principles of civilization and ethical conduct. He is revered as the first of twenty-four teachers who show the path to spiritual liberation. His life and teachings set the model for subsequent guides, emphasizing non-violence, truth, and the nature of the soul. He serves as a primary object of devotion and a symbol of ancient wisdom within the religious community.

**203.** (D) An enlightened being who helps others toward nirvana
This spiritual ideal is a central feature of the later branch of the Buddhist tradition. it describes an individual who has attained a high level of spiritual realization but chooses to remain in the cycle of rebirth out of profound compassion to assist all other beings in achieving liberation. This concept transformed the earlier focus on individual escape from suffering into a more universal and altruistic goal, emphasizing that true enlightenment involves the welfare and salvation of all sentient beings.

**204.** (B) The duties and stages of life prescribed for individuals
This comprehensive framework provided a balanced structure for an individual to lead a meaningful life within ancient society. It combined the ethical duties associated with a person's social status with a series of four sequential stages of spiritual and personal development. By following these guidelines, a person could fulfill their social and family responsibilities while also progressing toward the ultimate goal of spiritual liberation. It reflected a sophisticated understanding of the relationship between the individual, society, and the cosmic order.

**205.** (C) Five daily sacrifices to be performed by a householder
In the traditional religious life of ancient India, an individual in the stage of family responsibility was expected to perform five specific daily rituals. These simple yet meaningful offerings were intended to honor the divine, the ancestors, the wise sages, fellow human beings through hospitality, and all other living creatures. These obligations reflected the belief in the interconnectedness of all existence and the individual's role in maintaining the harmony and balance of the entire natural and spiritual world.

**206.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The writings of travelers and geographers from the Islamic world provide a valuable external perspective on medieval Indian society and politics. These accounts offer detailed descriptions of the various kingdoms, their administration, social customs, and commercial activities. Because these writers were often analytical and objective, their journals serve as an important source for verifying and supplementing the information found in indigenous records, providing a broader understanding of the historical developments across the subcontinent during this period.

**207.** (A) Paleolithic tools were heavy, while Mesolithic tools were microliths.
The transition between these two prehistoric phases is marked by a significant technological shift in how humans manufactured their primary implements. The earlier period was defined by large, crude stone tools used for basic processing and hunting. In contrast, the subsequent phase saw the development of much smaller, precisely shaped stones that were often combined with wood or bone to create more complex and efficient tools and weapons. This advancement reflects a change in subsistence strategies and a more specialized adaptation to a changing environment.

**208.** (B) 2600-1900 BCE
Modern archaeological research has established a specific timeframe for the most developed and prosperous phase of the first urban civilization in

NODIA

the subcontinent. During this period, the cities featured their most sophisticated engineering, standardized systems of weights and measures, and extensive international trade. This era of high urban activity followed an earlier formative stage and eventually gave way to a late phase of gradual de-urbanization. This chronology is vital for understanding the rise and decline of this foundational Bronze Age society.

**209.** (B) A chronological gap between the decline of cities and the arrival of Aryans
Older theories about the sudden collapse of the Indus Valley cities due to external conflict have been largely challenged by modern evidence. Research shows that most urban centers had already declined or been abandoned several centuries before the arrival of new groups in the region. Furthermore, there is a lack of widespread archaeological proof for catastrophic conflict at these sites. This gap suggests that internal environmental and economic factors played a more significant role in the end of this urban civilization than any sudden external invasion.

**210.** (A) The rise of Prajapati, Vishnu, and Rudra over earlier deities
As society became more settled and complex during the later period, the religious life of the people also underwent a significant transformation. The powerful natural deities who were dominant in the earlier hymns began to be eclipsed by new divine figures associated with cosmic creation, preservation, and destruction. These gods reflected a deeper philosophical inquiry into the nature of the universe and its ongoing processes. This shift in the pantheon mirrored the changing social and political priorities of a developing territorial and urbanizing society.

**211.** (C) Kalinga
By the sixth century B.C., the political map of northern India was dominated by sixteen powerful territorial entities. These states ranged from monarchies to confederations of clans. While many of these are well-documented in early literary records, some prominent regional powers that became significant in later periods were not part of this specific traditional list. Understanding which states were included helps historians reconstruct the regional dynamics and the primary centers of power during this crucial phase of Indian political history.

**212.** (D) Anga
This aggressive monarch initiated the expansion of his kingdom by annexing a neighboring state located along a major river route to the east. This conquest was a significant strategic achievement as it gave the kingdom control over vital river trade and increased its resources. This first step toward territorial growth established a pattern of expansion that his successors continued, eventually transforming a regional kingdom into a major empire that dominated much of northern India for centuries.

**213.** (C) Smriti
The two great Indian narratives are categorized as works based on tradition and memory rather than direct divine revelation. Although they were compiled over many centuries and contain many layers, they serve as encyclopedic sources that reflect the social norms, ethical ideals, and religious practices of ancient times. They have had a profound and lasting influence on the cultural and moral framework of the subcontinent, providing a shared heritage that has shaped the identity of people for generations across various regions.

**214.** (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The geography of the first urban civilization in the subcontinent was extensive, with various sites located across different modern regions. Some were situated in the arid western plains, while others functioned as major ports on the western coast. Others still were found in the fertile river valleys of the north and northwest. The relationship between these ancient settlements and their modern locations is essential for archaeological research and for understanding the diverse environmental settings in which this Bronze Age society flourished.

**215.** (D) The immediate overthrow of the Nanda dynasty by Alexander
While the Macedonian campaign in the northwest had significant long-term effects, it did not lead to a direct change in the government of the heartland. The invader's army turned back before entering the central regions where a powerful and wealthy dynasty was in power.

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However, the invasion weakened regional states and established new connections between India and the West. This disruption facilitated the subsequent rise of an indigenous visionary who later overthrew the established power and unified the subcontinent under a new empire.

**216.** (A) The cosmic law and moral order
In the ancient Vedic worldview, the entire universe was believed to be governed by a fundamental principle of regularity and truth. This concept encompassed the physical laws of nature, such as the movements of celestial bodies and the seasons, as well as the moral conduct expected of all beings. Deities were seen as the guardians of this harmony, ensuring that all elements of creation functioned according to this supreme law. It represented an early attempt to explain the underlying order of existence.

**217.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
As the Vedic groups transitioned from mobile tribal units to settled territorial kingdoms, the nature of political authority changed. In the early period, popular assemblies played a crucial role in advising the leader and making collective decisions. However, with the emergence of centralized monarchy and increased royal power, the influence of these community bodies significantly diminished. The leader's authority became more autocratic, supported by a growing administrative structure that replaced the earlier system of tribal consensus and collective deliberation.

**218.** (A) Yajurveda
This significant category of Vedic literature provides detailed information about rituals, social customs, and the history of the later period. It is specifically associated with the collection of sacrificial formulas and guidelines for the performance of complex ceremonies. These works are vital for historians because they offer deep insights into the evolving religious practices and the social structure of the people as they settled in the fertile river valleys, reflecting a more organized and ritualistic phase of ancient Indian society.

**219.** (D) The previous lives of the Buddha
This popular genre of literature in the Buddhist tradition consists of numerous stories about the founder's experiences in various forms before his final incarnation. These narratives often use animals or common people to illustrate specific moral virtues like compassion, wisdom, and self-sacrifice. They were used to teach ethical principles to a broad audience and provide a rich source of information about the social conditions, folk beliefs, and values of ancient India during the period in which they were compiled.

NODIA

**220.** (B) 1 and 3 only
The history of foreign contact with the northwestern part of the subcontinent involved multiple groups arriving at different times. A major Western empire successfully annexed several regions near the Indus, integrating them into an international administrative system. These interactions, including subsequent campaigns, led to the opening of new routes and significant cultural and commercial exchange. While some invasions were more brief, the cumulative effect was the introduction of new artistic styles, scripts, and administrative techniques that influenced the development of the region for centuries.

**221.** (C) Artha
Within the traditional framework for human goals, this specific pursuit focuses on the acquisition of material prosperity and the maintenance of economic security. It acknowledges that having adequate resources and financial well-being is a legitimate and necessary part of life in the world. By integrating this aim with ethical duty and personal desire, the system offers a balanced approach to existence, ensuring that individuals can support themselves and their families while also contributing to the overall stability and prosperity of society.

**222.** (D) The Ancestors
Ancient Indian thought identified three primary moral obligations that every individual is born with. One of these is a significant debt owed to the family line. It is believed that this obligation is fulfilled by living a responsible domestic life, ensuring the continuity of the family through children, and performing rituals to honor those who have passed away. By settling this debt, an individual maintains the link between the past,

present, and future, fulfilling a key responsibility toward their heritage and the social order.

**223.** (A) Economic conditions, extent of kingdoms, and art of the period
The scientific examination of ancient currency is a critical branch of historical research. By analyzing the metal content, inscriptions, and symbols found on these objects, historians can gain precise information about the financial health, minting technologies, and territorial reach of various dynasties. These physical remains often help to verify the chronological sequences of rulers and provide insights into the artistic and political ideologies of different eras. They serve as contemporary and tangible records of the commercial and political life of the past.

**224.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The transition to this prehistoric phase represents a fundamental change in how humans interacted with their environment. It began with the development of farming and animal domestication, allowing people to produce their own food rather than relying on collecting wild resources. This economic revolution led to a more sedentary existence and the formation of the first permanent village settlements. These changes provided the necessary foundation for population growth, specialized crafts, and the emergence of more complex social and political organizations.

**225.** (B) Indra, the god of thunder
While the urban centers of the Indus Valley eventually declined, many of their religious symbols and practices persisted in later Indian traditions. These include the worship of a prototype of a major deity, the veneration of specific trees, and the symbolic use of animals. However, the powerful deity associated with storms and warfare who was prominent in the early Vedic hymns was not part of the documented religious iconography of the earlier Bronze Age cities. This distinction illustrates the evolving nature of spiritual beliefs as different cultures interacted and merged over time.

**226.** (A) Tribal chieftainship to territorial kingship
The political organization of ancient India underwent a major shift as groups moved from a mobile life to permanent settlements. In the early period, authority was based on kinship and tribal identity, with a leader chosen primarily for his military skill and ability to protect the community. However, during the later phase, power became tied to a specific territory. This led to the emergence of centralized monarchies where the ruler held absolute authority over the land and its people, supported by a formal administrative and military structure.

**227.** (C) Use of punch-marked coins and the rise of trade
The economic expansion during the age of territorial states was significantly boosted by the introduction of a standardized medium of exchange. These metal pieces, manufactured by striking symbols onto silver or copper, facilitated trade and commerce on a much larger scale. This monetization of the economy, combined with growing agricultural surplus and specialized crafts, led to the development of flourishing urban centers and widespread commercial networks. These advancements provided the necessary economic foundation for the growth of powerful states and complex urban civilization.

**228.** (D) Shishunaga Dynasty
After the decline of the first significant family that ruled Magadha, power was taken over by a new dynasty founded by a former high official. This transition marked a continuation and expansion of the kingdom's influence. The new rulers were successful in finally subduing major regional rivals, significantly increasing the resources and territorial extent of the state. This period of political change eventually led to the rise of another powerful family that consolidated much of northern India before the arrival of the Mauryas.

**229.** (C) Find a path to liberation from the cycle of birth and death
Although they offered different philosophical approaches, these two major spiritual traditions shared a fundamental goal. Both sought to provide a way for individuals to overcome the suffering inherent in existence and achieve permanent peace. They emphasized ethical conduct, mental discipline, and the realization of truth as the primary means to break free from the ongoing cycle of rebirth. By offering a practical path for personal transformation, they challenged existing

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ritualistic norms and profoundly influenced the spiritual and intellectual landscape of ancient India.

**230.** (B) The Sakas and Kushans
The administrative innovation of using provincial governors with significant authority was introduced through contact with a major Western empire. This model of governance was later adopted and adapted by subsequent groups who established control over the northwestern parts of the subcontinent. These rulers used this system to manage their extensive and diverse territories, demonstrating how international political interactions led to the adoption of new organizational techniques that shaped the administrative history of the region for several centuries during the ancient period.

**231.** (D) Sanskrit grammar
This foundational work represents one of the highest achievements of ancient Indian intellectual culture. It provides a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the rules of language, organizing them into a concise and logical framework. This treatise became the standard for scholars for centuries, ensuring the precision and consistency of literary expression. Its existence illustrates that ancient intellectuals were deeply engaged in sophisticated studies of language and logic, extending their inquiry far beyond religious and ritual matters.

**232.** (A) Kashmir
Archaeological findings from the northernmost regions of the subcontinent have revealed a unique prehistoric culture. This community practiced a distinct way of life characterized by living in excavated underground dwellings, using specialized stone tools, and making coarse pottery. The discovery of animal remains, including domesticated dogs buried with their masters, provides insight into their social customs and early relationship with animals. These findings highlight the regional diversity of early settled communities and how they adapted to the specific climate and environment of the Himalayan foothills.

NODIA

**233.** (C) A migration of a group of monks to the south during a famine
The formal division of this spiritual tradition into two main branches is traditionally linked to a major environmental crisis in the north. According to the accounts, a group of practitioners moved to the southern regions to escape a severe prolonged drought. Over time, geographical separation and different interpretations of monastic rules regarding possessions and clothing led to the emergence of two distinct groups. This division remains a significant feature of the tradition, with each branch preserving its own unique customs and scriptures while sharing the core philosophical teachings.

**234.** (A) A special cadre of officials appointed to spread the message of Dhamma
Within the administrative framework of a major empire, a unique group of high-ranking officials was created to promote social harmony and ethical conduct. Their primary role was to visit different parts of the kingdom to explain the ruler's moral policies, resolve disputes, and ensure the welfare of the people. This innovative approach to governance used specialized administrators to communicate personal values and foster a sense of shared responsibility among the diverse subjects of the extensive imperial state.

**235.** (D) Expanding Magadhan monarchy
During the age of territorial states, the political landscape was characterized by a struggle between different systems of governance. While several regions functioned as non-monarchical polities ruled by councils of elites, they faced increasing pressure from powerful neighboring kingdoms. Through a combination of military force and diplomatic intrigue, one specific aggressive and centrally organized monarchy eventually succeeded in subduing and incorporating these independent entities into its growing empire. This process of consolidation led to the eventual unification of much of northern India under a single, supreme authority.

**236.** (B) A wealthy merchant
In the traditional narrative, a young prince was deeply moved by a series of four specific encounters that revealed the reality of human existence. These sights included an elderly

person, a sick individual, and a corpse, all of which highlighted the inevitability of suffering, decay, and death. He also observed a calm, wandering ascetic, which suggested a possible path toward spiritual peace. These experiences prompted him to renounce his privileged life and search for the root of suffering and the way to permanent liberation.

**237.** (C) Retire to the forest and lead a life of meditation
Within the traditional system of life stages, this period represents a transition from active social and family responsibility to a more contemplative existence. An individual who has fulfilled their duties as a householder is expected to gradually withdraw from worldly affairs and spend time in a natural setting focused on spiritual study and mental discipline. This stage serves as a preparation for the final phase of complete renunciation. It emphasizes the importance of balancing worldly engagement with the ongoing pursuit of inner growth and wisdom.

**238.** (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
While the first urban civilization in the subcontinent is famous for its remarkable degree of standardization in urban planning, weights, and measures, it was not completely uniform. Archaeological research has shown that different regions maintained their own unique styles in pottery, domestic architecture, and certain cultural practices. These variations reflect how the overarching urban system adapted to diverse local environments and traditional ways of life across its extensive territory. This combination of unity and diversity is a key characteristic of this sophisticated Bronze Age society.

**239.** (A) Surya (as a form of Savitr)
This collection of sacred knowledge consists of rhythmic chants and melodies that were used during ceremonies to invoke divine powers. While many of the verses are derived from earlier hymns, they are specifically organized for ritual singing. The primary focus of these chants is a deity associated with light, energy, and the life-sustaining power of the sun. This emphasis reflects the central role of solar power and cosmic energy in the spiritual and ritual life of the people during the Vedic period.

**240.** (B) Vaishali
A significant gathering was held approximately a century after the passing of the major spiritual leader to address disputes regarding monastic discipline. This assembly, which took place in a prominent city, witnessed the first major division within the religious community between those who advocated for a strict adherence to traditional rules and those who favored a more flexible approach. This event was a turning point that led to the development of different schools of thought, each preserving and interpreting the original teachings in its own unique way.

**241.** (A) III, I, IV, II
The traditional system of life stages provided a structured path for an individual's personal and spiritual development. It began with a period of disciplined study as a student, followed by the stage of family and social responsibility as a householder. Next was a phase of gradual withdrawal to a more contemplative life, and finally, a stage of complete renunciation and wandering. This sequence was designed to lead an individual from early learning through worldly engagement to ultimate spiritual liberation and peace in the later years of life.

**242.** (A) Luxury goods like spices, textiles, and precious stones
Historical records from the Western classical world describe a flourishing maritime trade with the subcontinent. These accounts highlight the immense demand for various Indian products, including aromatic spices, high-quality fabrics, and rare gems. The high volume of this commerce led to a significant flow of precious metals from the Mediterranean regions to India to pay for these prized items. This international economic link demonstrates the sophisticated nature of ancient global trade and the high value placed on Indian goods in distant civilizations centuries ago.

**243.** (C) The production of an agricultural surplus due to iron technology
The re-emergence of complex cities in northern India was primarily driven by the adoption of a harder metal for essential tools. Stronger implements enabled the clearing of dense vegetation and more effective farming of the fertile river plains, leading to a significant

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increase in food production. This surplus supported a growing population of non-farmers, including artisans, traders, and administrators. This economic foundation provided the necessary conditions for the growth of new urban centers and powerful territorial states, marking a major transition in the historical development of the region.

**244.** (C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
The religious life of the Vedic tribes was centered on a pantheon of deities associated with natural forces and social values. Among these, some were celebrated for their military prowess and control over storms, while others served as intermediaries through fire. Some divine powers were seen as the upholders of cosmic order and truth, and others were linked to specific plants used in ritual practices. This diverse group of gods reflected the priorities and worldviews of a mobile, pastoral community that valued strength, order, and the sacred power of nature.

**245.** (C) Sects that rejected the authority of the Vedas
During the period of intense intellectual fermentation in the sixth century B.C., numerous new spiritual movements and philosophical schools emerged. Many of these groups were characterized by their critical approach toward established religious norms. Specifically, they did not accept the divine origin of ancient scriptures or the absolute necessity of elaborate rituals and hereditary social hierarchies. By emphasizing individual ethical conduct and logical inquiry, these groups offered alternative paths for spiritual liberation, significantly transforming the religious and social landscape of the ancient subcontinent.

**246.** (B) Mauryan court art and the use of the Kharosthi script
Contact with a major Western empire left a lasting legacy on the culture and administration of the subcontinent. This influence is visible in the adoption of a specific script for writing used in the northwest and in various artistic styles favored by subsequent imperial courts. Certain architectural motifs and themes were integrated into local traditions, illustrating how international interactions led to the exchange of technological and creative ideas. These cultural links were maintained through trade and diplomacy, shaping the development of Indian art and administration during the era of its first great unified empire.

**247.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
These ancient philosophical treatises represent a significant shift in Indian thought toward internal spiritual inquiry. They focus on deep questions about the nature of existence, the individual self, and the ultimate reality of the universe. Their teachings advocate for achieving liberation through direct realization and wisdom rather than through the performance of external rituals. This focus on the underlying truth of existence and the unity of all beings has had a profound and lasting influence on all subsequent spiritual and philosophical traditions in the subcontinent.

**248.** (A) A compulsory tax collected by the state
As society transitioned from small tribal units to larger territorial kingdoms, the nature of social and political obligations changed. A term that originally referred to a voluntary gift given to the tribal chief for protection transformed into a regular and mandatory contribution to the state. This development reflects the growth of a more formal and centralized administration with a systematic taxation system. It indicates the increasing power of the monarch to collect resources to support a standing army and a complex government, marking a major step in political development.

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**249.** (C) Ahimsa (Non-violence)
This spiritual tradition identifies three primary pillars that form the foundation of its practice and identity. These include the revered founder who showed the way, the core body of teachings and principles, and the community of practitioners. Together, these elements are seen as precious 'jewels' that guide an individual toward enlightenment. While the principle of not causing harm to others is a fundamental moral guideline within the tradition, it is distinct from this specific set of authoritative components that define the religion and its community.

**250.** (B) 1 and 2 only
The two major spiritual movements that emerged in northern India during the sixth century B.C. shared several key characteristics.

Both were founded by members of the hereditary warrior class and initially used the language of the common people to spread their messages, rather than the formal language of rituals. Both also challenged established social hierarchies and the absolute authority of ancient scriptures. By emphasizing individual ethical conduct and mental discipline, they offered more inclusive and practical paths for spiritual liberation, attracting a broad following across various social groups.

**251.** (D) Its authorship is known, and it deals with worldly themes.
Non-religious literature provides a different perspective on ancient history compared to works focused on ritual or philosophy. This category includes texts on subjects like grammar, political science, and creative arts, whose authors are clearly identified. By dealing with worldly themes such as statecraft, language, and human emotions, these works reflect a highly organized and intellectual culture that engaged in sophisticated studies of the world around them. Such literature is vital for understanding the broader cultural and educational environment of ancient India, extending far beyond purely spiritual and liturgical matters.

**252.** (B) A long coastline with many natural harbors for maritime trade
The ascent of this kingdom to regional and eventual imperial dominance was facilitated by exceptional natural advantages in its heartland. Its location in the fertile river valleys provided an abundant food surplus and easy communication routes. Furthermore, access to rich mineral deposits in the neighboring hills allowed for the large-scale production of high-quality tools and weaponry. These factors, combined with a strategic capital surrounded by natural defenses, provided a robust economic and military foundation for expansion. While regional trade was important, the kingdom's initial growth was driven by its inland and riverine resources.

**253.** (C) The Indus Valley Civilization
This historical phase refers to societies that possessed a system of writing, but because modern scholars cannot yet read their script, their history must be reconstructed primarily through archaeological evidence. The first urban civilization in the subcontinent is the most prominent example of this category. Thousands of brief inscriptions have been found, but their exact meaning remains a mystery. Consequently, research into this period relies heavily on material remains like urban layouts, artifacts, and trade goods to understand the social and political structure of this sophisticated Bronze Age society.

**254.** (D) The rise of the Mahajanapadas and the Second Urbanisation
The adoption of a harder metal for essential tools was a fundamental transformation that shaped the history of the northern river valleys. Stronger implements enabled the clearing of dense vegetation and more effective farming of the fertile plains, leading to a significant increase in food production. This surplus supported the re-emergence of complex urban life and the growth of powerful territorial states. These developments marked the transition to a more organized and urbanized society after a long rural period, providing the economic and technological foundation for future regional empires and cultural achievements.

**255.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The nature of political authority in ancient India underwent a profound transformation as society transitioned from mobile tribal groups to settled territorial kingdoms. In the early period, the leader was primarily a military protector whose power was moderated by community consensus and assemblies. However, as states became more stable and extensive, the ruler's authority grew increasingly absolute and territorially based. This new form of kingship was supported by a formal administrative structure, a regular taxation system, and a standing army, marking a major step toward a centralized imperial style of governance.

**256.** (B) To provide a concise, systematic summary of Vedic knowledge
As the vast body of ancient sacred knowledge became increasingly complex and difficult to transmit, there arose a need for a more structured and manageable format. This led to the creation of a genre of literature characterized by extremely brief and structured statements designed to aid memory. These works organized diverse

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information regarding domestic rituals, public ceremonies, and social duties into a concise system that could be easily taught and preserved. This systematic approach allowed for the efficient management and transmission of traditional wisdom in an evolving and more complex society.

**257.** (B) Dhana Nanda
During the time of the Macedonian expedition into the northwest, the central parts of northern India were governed by a powerful dynasty known for its immense wealth and massive military strength. Reports of the formidable army possessed by these rulers, including thousands of elephants, reportedly contributed to the decision of the invading soldiers to turn back. However, the internal unpopularity of the last monarch of this dynasty, due to his oppressive policies, eventually created an opportunity for a new visionary leader to overthrow the established power and unify the subcontinent.

**258.** (A) Inscriptions
The history of the earliest phases of human existence, before the development of settled farming and complex societies, is reconstructed entirely through material remains. Evidence such as stone implements, fossilized biological remains, and early art found in shelters provides crucial data on the technology, environment, and creative life of mobile hunting and gathering groups. Written records only appeared several millennia later after the formation of permanent settlements and urban civilizations. Therefore, physical artifacts and biological evidence are the primary sources for understanding the long history of the early stone age.

**259.** (C) The law of cause and effect where actions determine future consequences
This fundamental philosophical principle posits that every intentional action has a corresponding result that influences the individual's future experiences. It serves as a moral law of cause and effect, where a person's current circumstances are seen as the product of their past deeds across multiple lifetimes. This concept provides an ethical framework for personal conduct, emphasizing that individuals are responsible for their own destiny through their thoughts, words, and actions in the world. It remains a cornerstone of major spiritual traditions that originated in the subcontinent.

**260.** (D) The Bodhisattva concept and deification of the Buddha
This influential branch of the Buddhist tradition is defined by a more universal and compassionate ideal. It emphasizes the spiritual path of enlightened beings who choose to remain in the cycle of rebirth to assist all others in achieving liberation. This period also saw the development of a more devotional approach, where the founder came to be viewed as a supreme divine figure rather than just an exceptional teacher. These changes made the religion more accessible to a broader audience and were reflected in new forms of religious art and literature across various regions.

**261.** (C) Balancing the spiritual and material goals of life
This traditional framework identifies four essential pursuits that provide a comprehensive and balanced approach to existence. It acknowledges the importance of ethical duty and righteousness, the necessity of acquiring material wealth and security, the fulfillment of emotional and sensory desires, and the ultimate aim of spiritual liberation. By integrating these diverse goals, the system offers a guide for an individual to lead a meaningful and well-rounded life within society. It emphasizes that a complete life involve fulfilling worldly responsibilities while also progressing toward the ultimate spiritual truth of the universe.

**262.** (B) Haryanka
This aggressive monarch was the first significant ruler to initiate the expansion of his kingdom through a combination of military conquest and strategic diplomacy. By forming connections with neighboring powerful states through family ties, he secured his frontiers and gained prestigious allies. These strategic moves provided significant political legitimacy and resources, establishing the foundation for the kingdom's future regional dominance and its transformation into a major force in the political landscape of northern India. He also maintained relationships with prominent spiritual leaders who were active during his influential reign.

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**263.** (D) The era of Mahajanapadas and the Mauryas
The appearance of a highly polished, dark-colored pottery style in the archaeological record marks a period of significant urban growth and economic sophistication in the northern river valleys. This distinctive ceramic, characterized by its fine finish and metallic shine, was widely traded across various regions. Its widespread use coincides with the rise of powerful territorial states and the formation of the first great unified empire. This technological and artistic achievement reflects the flourishing of specialized crafts and commercial activity during a major urban and political peak of ancient Indian history.

**264.** (A) Indian mathematics and geometry
This specific category of ancient manuals was composed to provide guidelines for the construction of sacrificial altars and ritual spaces. To ensure the precise measurements required for these ceremonies, the texts developed fundamental principles of calculation and spatial organization. They include rules for creating various geometric shapes with specific areas, representing some of the earliest documented knowledge of mathematical principles in the subcontinent. These works illustrate that scientific and technical inquiry in ancient India was often closely linked to the practical needs of religious and ritual practices.

**265.** (C) The system of governance (hereditary king vs. assembly)
During the age of territorial states, the political map of northern India featured two main types of political organization. In one system, authority was concentrated in a single leader who inherited the position from their family and held absolute power over the land. In the other system, power was shared among a council of elites or clan members who made collective decisions through deliberation in a central hall. These different approaches to leadership and administration reflect the political diversity and the sophisticated understanding of organized authority that existed in ancient Indian society.

**266.** (A) Lothal
One of the most compelling pieces of evidence for the maritime capabilities of the first urban civilization is a unique structure found at a site near the western coast. This massive, baked-brick basin was carefully engineered to manage water levels, suggesting it functioned as a facility for berthing and repairing ships. Such an advanced structure, located near a river outlet to the sea, confirms that these ancient urbanites were actively involved in long-distance international commerce by water. The site also yielded various trade goods, confirming its role as a prosperous commercial hub.

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**267.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The historical development of the Vedic groups saw a significant movement from the northwestern frontier toward the fertile central river valleys. This shift was fueled by technological advancement, particularly the adoption of a harder metal for essential tools, which enabled the clearing of dense vegetation and more effective farming of the new lands. This move toward a more settled agricultural life in a new environment led to the growth of permanent communities and more complex social and political structures, marking a major transition in the cultural and economic history of the region.

**268.** (B) Extreme luxury and extreme asceticism
This central doctrine advocates for a balanced approach to spiritual life. It suggests avoiding the extremes of excessive self-indulgence and the severe physical hardship of extreme self-denial. By following this moderate course, a practitioner can achieve clarity of mind and ethical stability, which are necessary for attaining enlightenment. This principle is presented as the most effective way to end suffering and was a key feature that distinguished this tradition from other contemporary philosophical schools that favored more extreme forms of either worldly life or ascetic practice.

**269.** (C) Political and economic, stimulating trade and new administration
Contact with a major Western empire left a lasting impact on the northwestern parts of the subcontinent. This influence was visible in the introduction of new administrative techniques, the use of specialized scripts for communication, and the stimulation of international trade routes connecting India with the Mediterranean world. These interactions facilitated the exchange of goods and ideas, broadening the cultural horizons of both regions. The administrative

model introduced during this period influenced subsequent regional dynasties, highlighting how international political connections shaped the history of the northwestern frontier for centuries.

**270.** (D) Studying, teaching, and performing sacrifices
In the traditional social hierarchy that developed in ancient India, a specific class was responsible for the preservation and transmission of sacred knowledge. Their duties included the rigorous study of ancient scriptures, the teaching of these texts to future generations, and the correct performance of complex rituals believed to maintain cosmic and social order. This specialized role made them the primary spiritual and intellectual guides of society, ensuring that the religious and philosophical traditions were accurately maintained and interpreted within the evolving social and political landscape of the period.

**271.** (A) Xuanzang (Hsuan-Tsang)
This seventh-century traveler provides one of the most detailed and reliable accounts of medieval Indian life. His writings offer a thorough description of the administration, social customs, and educational systems of the time. He specifically highlights the functioning of a world-renowned center of learning, describing its curriculum, the high standards of scholarship, and the generous patronage it received. His primary goal was to deepen his understanding of Buddhist philosophy by learning from the most renowned scholars of the time. His journal remains a primary source for understanding the cultural peak of this influential era.

**272.** (B) A large stone slab or monument, often used for burials
This term refers to a specific type of ancient monument characterized by the use of large stone slabs to mark graves or ceremonial sites. These structures were built by early communities across various parts of the subcontinent and are often associated with the transition to the use of metals. They provide crucial information about the social organization, beliefs about the afterlife, and the technological skills of the people who created them. These enduring stone remains serve as visible records of the ritual and social practices of prehistoric and protohistoric societies.

**273.** (B) Second Urbanisation
This historical development refers to the re-emergence of complex city life in northern India following a long period of rural existence after the decline of the earlier urban civilization. It was fueled by technological advancements, particularly the widespread use of iron, which enabled the clearing of dense vegetation and more effective farming of the fertile river plains. The resulting increase in food production supported a growing population and facilitated specialized trade and crafts. This economic foundation provided the necessary conditions for the rise of new urban centers and powerful territorial states in the Gangetic region.

**274.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Ancient Indian history is defined by several foundational concepts across different traditions. Some relate to supreme spiritual teachers who attained liberation, while others describe enlightened beings who assist others out of compassion. Some ancient hymns provide early conceptualizations of a hierarchical social structure. Furthermore, domestic religious life was organized around set daily rituals intended to honor the divine, ancestors, and other beings. Together, these terms reflect the diverse spiritual, social, and ritual practices that shaped the cultural and intellectual landscape of ancient India over many centuries.

**275.** (C) Magadha
The ascent of this kingdom to imperial dominance was facilitated by exceptional natural advantages, including its strategic location in the fertile river valleys and proximity to rich mineral deposits. These resources provided the economic and military foundation for expansion. A series of ambitious and determined monarchs consolidated power and expanded their territory through military conquest and diplomacy. Their success eventually led to the unification of much of northern India under a single, supreme authority, creating the first truly extensive empire in the subcontinent's history.

**276.** (D) Avanti
After the decline of the first significant family that ruled Magadha, power was taken over by a new dynasty founded by a former high official. This transition marked a continuation

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and expansion of the kingdom's influence. The new rulers were successful in finally subduing major regional rivals, significantly increasing the resources and territorial extent of the state. This period of political change eventually led to the rise of another powerful family that consolidated much of northern India before the arrival of the Mauryas, marking a major milestone in the political history of the region.

**277.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The new spiritual movements that emerged in the sixth century B.C. gained significant support from social groups that were often marginalized by the traditional hereditary hierarchy. By emphasizing ethical conduct over birth and rejecting expensive rituals, these traditions offered a higher moral status and a more inclusive religious community. Furthermore, their core principles were highly beneficial for individuals seeking alternative paths for spiritual liberation. This message of social equality and ethical personal transformation attracted a broad following across various segments of society, significantly influencing the cultural landscape.

**278.** (B) The end of the Later Vedic age and the rise of the Mauryan empire
These two major types of literature provide a rich tapestry of information about a crucial transitional phase of Indian history. One genre consists of concise manuals that organized various aspects of ritual, law, and social duty. The other includes massive poetic narratives that captured the history and moral lessons of the heroic age. Together, these works reflect the social norms, political ideals, and religious practices as society moved from tribal units to settled territorial states, eventually leading to the formation of the first great unified empire in the subcontinent.

**279.** (D) Continuous cultural and commercial contact with the West
Although the Macedonian military campaign in the subcontinent was relatively short, its consequences for international interaction were profound. By establishing new routes and several Greek settlements, the invasion opened consistent channels for trade and cultural exchange between India and the Mediterranean world. This facilitated the movement of goods, ideas, and artistic styles for centuries to come, broadening the cultural horizons of both regions and fostering long-term diplomatic and commercial relationships. This legacy is visible in the subsequent development of regional art, script, and administration in the northwestern parts of the subcontinent.

**280.** (B) 1 and 2 only
Historical research relies on a combination of literary and material sources to reconstruct the past. While written records often provide detailed social and cultural insights, they must be analyzed for potential bias. Inscriptions and physical remains like coins are particularly valued because they are often contemporary with the events they describe and provide authentic records of royal policies and economic conditions. However, accounts from foreign travelers, while valuable for an outside perspective, can sometimes contain misunderstandings or exaggerations. Together, these diverse sources offer a more complete and verified understanding of ancient history.

**281.** (C) The inherent cosmic and moral order of the universe
In the ancient Vedic worldview, the entire universe was believed to be governed by a fundamental principle of regularity and truth. This concept encompassed the physical laws of nature, such as the movements of celestial bodies and the seasons, as well as the moral conduct expected of all beings. Deities were seen as the guardians of this harmony, ensuring that all elements of creation functioned according to this supreme law. It represented an early attempt to explain the underlying order of existence and the individual's role in maintaining this cosmic balance through ritual and ethical behavior.

**282.** (A) A general assembly of the tribe, open to all common people
In the early political organization of the Vedic groups, authority was shared between the tribal leader and two important community bodies. One functioned as a broader gathering of the entire tribe, providing a platform for the common people to discuss important issues, including war, peace, and social matters. This institution served as a vital check on the leader's power and was essential for making collective decisions.

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Its existence reflects a semi-democratic and consultative form of governance in early tribal society, ensuring that the interests and opinions of the community were represented.

**283.** (D) Nri Yajna (or Atithi Yajna)
In the traditional religious life of ancient India, an individual in the stage of family responsibility was expected to perform five specific daily rituals. This particular offering emphasizes the importance of hospitality and the ethical duty toward fellow human beings. It involves providing food and care for guests and those in need, symbolizing the interconnectedness of society and the householder's role in supporting others. This practice reflects a broader commitment to compassion and social responsibility, forming a key part of the ethical framework that guided daily conduct and social interactions.

**284.** (B) Greco-Roman writers
The detailed account of early Mauryan India written by a foreign diplomat has not survived in its original form. However, its contents were so significant that numerous later historians and geographers from the classical world included large excerpts and summaries in their own works. These fragments provide a vital external perspective on the capital city, the administration, and the social conditions of the time. They are a primary source for understanding the early years of the first great unified empire, showing how information about the subcontinent was transmitted and preserved in Western scholarship centuries ago.

**285.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The transition between these two prehistoric phases represents a fundamental change in how humans interacted with their environment. The earlier period was defined by a mobile existence focused on collecting wild resources and hunting animals. In contrast, the subsequent period saw the development of farming and animal domestication, allowing people to produce their own food. This economic revolution led to permanent settlements and the formation of the first village communities, providing the necessary foundation for population growth and the emergence of more complex social and political organizations that formed the basis for future civilizations.

**286.** (D) Grid system of streets and an elaborate drainage system
The first urban civilization in the subcontinent is most famously defined by its sophisticated civil engineering and architecture. Their cities featured carefully planned layouts with consistent grid systems where streets intersected at right angles. Furthermore, they designed and built highly advanced public infrastructure for water management and waste removal, including underground sewers. These features indicate a high degree of central organization and a deep understanding of public health and hygiene, setting them apart from other contemporary societies and representing a remarkable peak of ancient urban development in the region.

**287.** (A) Land and territorial kingship over tribal identity
As the Vedic groups transitioned from mobile tribal units to settled communities in fertile regions, the nature of political identity and authority underwent a profound change. A term that originally referred to tribal groups began to signify a specific territory. This development reflects the emergence of territorial states where the leader's authority became tied to the land they occupied rather than just to a group of kin. This shift toward a more formalized and centralized monarchy marked a major step in political development, leading to the growth of more extensive kingdoms and eventually regional empires.

**288.** (B) Anguttara Nikaya
Traditional accounts of the political landscape of northern India during the sixth century B.C. frequently mention sixteen powerful territorial states. This specific list of regional powers is found in various ancient religious texts, including one major collection of Buddhist discourses. By providing this geographical and political framework, these sources help historians reconstruct the distribution of power and the interactions between different monarchies and non-monarchical polities during this crucial phase of Indian history. This record is vital for understanding the regional dynamics that preceded the eventual unification of the subcontinent under a single empire.

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**289.** (B) The Four Noble Truths
The foundational teachings of this spiritual tradition are encapsulated in a systematic diagnosis of the human condition. They assert that existence is fundamentally characterized by suffering and that this suffering is caused by craving and attachment. By following a specific ethical and mental path, an individual can eliminate these cravings and achieve a state of permanent peace and liberation from the cycle of rebirth. These core principles provide a practical framework for personal transformation and have had a profound and lasting influence on spiritual thought and practice across Asia and beyond for centuries.

**290.** (A) The opening of routes fostering centuries of contact
Although the Macedonian military campaign in the subcontinent was relatively short, its consequences for international interaction were profound and long-lasting. By establishing several new land and sea routes, the invasion opened consistent channels for trade and cultural exchange between India and the Mediterranean world. This facilitated the movement of goods, people, and ideas for centuries to come, broadening the cultural horizons of both regions. This enduring legacy is visible in the subsequent development of regional art, script, and commercial networks, fosterind long-term diplomatic and commercial relationships between India and the West.

**291.** (C) Vaishya
Within the traditional system of personal development, an individual's life was divided into four sequential spiritual and social stages. These included a period of disciplined study, followed by family and social responsibility, then a phase of gradual withdrawal to a more contemplative life, and finally a stage of complete renunciation. This framework was distinct from the classification of social groups, which categorized people into different functional classes based on their hereditary roles. Each stage provided a set of duties and goals designed to lead an individual toward spiritual maturity and eventual liberation from worldly suffering.

**292.** (D) Paleography
This specialized field of study involves the systematic analysis of ancient writing systems and how they evolved over time. It focuses on deciphering old scripts found in inscriptions and manuscripts to gain insights into the language, administration, and social conditions of the period in which they were created. By studying the forms of characters and the techniques of writing, scholars can accurately date historical records and verify the authenticity of various texts. This research is essential for reconstructing the history of civilizations that used scripts that are no longer in common use.

**293.** (C) Hunting, fishing, and food gathering
This transitional prehistoric phase is defined by a continuation of a mobile subsistence lifestyle, although with significant technological advancements. Human groups relied on natural resources for their survival, focusing on collecting wild plants, fishing, and hunting diverse wildlife. The development of smaller, more efficient stone tools allowed for better management of resources and adaptation to a changing post-ice age environment. While some early signs of animal taming appeared, the primary economic activities remained rooted in harvesting the gifts of the natural world, representing a bridge between the earlier stone age and the later agricultural revolution.

**294.** (B) Uncertain, but possibly a state ruled by priests or merchants
One of the most intriguing mysteries of the first urban civilization in the subcontinent is its system of governance. While the cities were remarkably standardized and well-organized, there is a lack of evidence for individual powerful monarchs or massive monuments to royal power. Some scholars suggest that power may have been held by a council of influential individuals, perhaps from the religious or commercial classes, who managed the sophisticated urban planning and extensive trade networks. This decentralized or collective form of authority would distinguish them from other contemporary societies, but without readable records, the exact nature remains speculative.

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**295.** (D) Largely egalitarian and patriarchal
The social organization of the early Vedic groups was based on kinship and tribal identity. While society was led by male heads of families and tribes, it was relatively less hierarchical than in later periods. Social roles were based on occupation and were somewhat fluid, with a focus on collective tribal welfare. This pastoral community valued tribal solidarity and consensus, and the power of the leader was moderated by popular assemblies. This structure reflected the needs of a mobile society that depended on the cooperation of its members for defense and the management of livestock.

**296.** (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
This prominent political entity in northern India was not a monarchy but functioned as a powerful confederacy of multiple clans. Their system of governance was based on collective leadership where decisions were made through deliberation in a central assembly. They were located in the fertile plains and their capital city was a major hub for political and religious activity. This unique non-monarchical structure made them a significant regional power that frequently interacted with neighboring kingdoms and major spiritual leaders, illustrating the political diversity of the era before the rise of centralized regional empires.

**297.** (C) Truth and reality are complex and have multiple aspects
This fundamental philosophical principle teaches that truth is extremely complex and can be viewed from many different perspectives. It suggests that any single viewpoint is necessarily partial and cannot capture the absolute whole of reality. By accepting that different perspectives can contain elements of truth, this doctrine promotes intellectual humility and tolerance. It remains a key contribution of this tradition to Indian thought, providing a logical framework for understanding diversity and avoiding dogmatism. This approach emphasizes that reaching the complete truth requires a comprehensive understanding of all possible facets of existence.

**298.** (A) Serve as condensed manuals for ritual and law
As the vast body of ancient sacred knowledge became increasingly complex, there arose a need for a more structured and manageable format for teaching and preservation. This led to the creation of a genre of literature characterized by extremely brief and structured statements designed to aid memory. These works organized diverse information regarding domestic rituals, public ceremonies, and social duties into a concise system that could be easily taught. This systematic approach allowed for the efficient management and transmission of traditional wisdom in an evolving and more complex society, serving as essential practical guides for conduct.

**299.** (D) Hidush (Sindhu)
A major Western empire successfully extended its influence into the northwestern part of the subcontinent during the late sixth century B.C. This annexed region, near the major river of the area, was organized as an imperial province and became a wealthy part of the empire. Contemporary accounts from foreign historians describe it as one of the most populous and prosperous areas under imperial control, contributing significant resources and soldiers. This contact integrated the region into an international administrative system and fostered trade and cultural exchange between India and the Western and Middle Eastern worlds for many years.

**300.** (B) Mahayana Buddhism
This spiritual figure is a central deity in the later schools of the Buddhist tradition, personifying the virtue of infinite compassion. He is believed to observe the cries of all suffering beings and offers them spiritual assistance, postponing his own final liberation to help others. His prominence reflects the theological shift toward the worship of transcendental beings and the aspiration for universal salvation, which characterizes this specific religious branch. This concept transformed the earlier focus on individual escape from suffering into a more inclusive and altruistic goal, influencing religious art and devotional practices across Asia.

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# CHAPTER 03

# Maurya and Later Mouryan Period

**1.** Which of the following terms from Kautilya's Artha-shashtra refers to the science of government or polity?
(A) Saptanga
(B) Dandaniti
(C) Dharma vijaya
(D) Vishti

**2.** According to the Saptanga theory of Kautilya, which element represents the king or the sovereign?
(A) Svamin (The Ruler)
(B) Amatya (The Minister)
(C) Janapada (The Territory)
(D) Durga (The Fort)

**3.** Consider the following statements regarding the ancestry of Chandragupta Maurya:
Statement I: Chandragupta Maurya's origin is clearly described in all ancient texts as being of Kshatriya lineage.
Statement II: Brahmanical and Buddhist traditions offer differing accounts of ancestry, suggesting a lack of consensus.
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

**4.** The concept of 'Dharma vijaya' as propagated by Ashoka refers to:
(A) Conquest through military force and expansion.
(B) A specific legal code for the Mauryan empire.
(C) The victory of a specific religious sect.
(D) Conquest by righteousness and moral persuasion.

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**5.** Match List I with List II regarding the Saptanga theory and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Element)
P. Amatya
Q. Janapada
R. Kosha
S. Mitra
List II: (Meaning)
1. Treasury
2. Ally
3. The Minister
4. Territory and People
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**6.** Which of the following is NOT a feature of a Buddhist Stupa?
(A) A hemispherical dome called Anda.
(B) A central hall for congregational worship.
(C) A square railing structure called Harmika.
(D) A path called Pradakshina patha.

**7.** What does the Mauryan term 'Kara' signify?
(A) A state-regulated form of forced labor.
(B) A religious tax levied on non-Buddhists.
(C) A voluntary offering made to the ruler.
(D) A regular tax on agricultural produce.

**8.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding the Mauryan administrative system.
(A) Village administration was independent of central control.
(B) The administration was highly centralized under the king.
(C) The empire was divided into provinces and subdivisions.
(D) The city administration involved a council of 30 members.

**9.** The term 'Vishti' in the Mauryan period refers to which of the following?

(A) A type of land grant
(B) A specific unit of currency
(C) Forced labor
(D) A guild of merchants

**10.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Battle of Kalinga was a turning point in Ashoka's life and policies.
Reason (R): The immense bloodshed in the war led Ashoka to favor cultural conquest over physical conquest.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**11.** A 'Chaitya' in the context of Mauryan and post-Mauryan architecture was primarily a:
(A) Residential monastery for Buddhist monks.
(B) Royal palace for the Mauryan emperor.
(C) Fortified administrative province center.
(D) Prayer hall or shrine with a stupa.

**12.** Which of the following was a key achievement of Chandragupta Maurya's reign?
(A) The state propagation of the Dhamma policy.
(B) The liberation of India from Greek control.
(C) The organization of the Buddhist Council.
(D) The use of Sanskrit in royal inscriptions.

**13.** Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Sannidhata - Chief Treasury Officer
(B) Samaharta - Collector General of Revenue
(C) Amatya - Village Headman
(D) Adhyakshas - Superintendents of departments

**14.** According to Jain tradition, Chandragupta Maurya spent his last days at which of the following places?
(A) Pataliputra
(B) Taxila
(C) Ujjain
(D) Shravanabelagola

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**15.** Consider the following statements about Ashoka's Dhamma:
1. It was a new religion founded by Ashoka himself.
2. It emphasized non-violence and religious tolerance.
3. Its principles were exclusively derived from Buddhist teachings.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**16.** What was the primary purpose of the 'Vihar' in ancient India?
(A) It was a place for public debate and discourse.
(B) It served as a dwelling place for monks.
(C) It was a royal court for dispensing justice.
(D) It was a sacred place for animal sacrifices.

**17.** The city administration of Pataliputra during the time of Chandragupta Maurya is famously described in which ancient work?
(A) Arthashastra by Kautilya
(B) Indica by Megasthenes
(C) Mudrarakshasa by Vishakhadatta
(D) Puranas

**18.** Ashoka's inscriptions are found in all the following scripts EXCEPT:
(A) Devanagari
(B) Brahmi
(C) Kharosthi
(D) Aramaic

**19.** Which category of Ashoka's edicts provides the most detailed account of the Kalinga War and its aftermath?
(A) Minor Rock Edicts of Ashoka
(B) The various Pillar Edicts
(C) Major Rock Edict XIII
(D) Cave Inscriptions in Bihar

**20.** Arrange the following Mauryan rulers in chronological order:
1. Ashoka
2. Chandragupta Maurya
3. Bindusara

4. Brihadratha
(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 3, 4
(D) 3, 2, 1, 4

**21.** What was the primary function of the officers known as 'Dhamma Mahamattas' appointed by Ashoka?
(A) To collect revenue for the state.
(B) To command the army in various provinces.
(C) To spread and supervise Dhamma.
(D) To judge civil and criminal cases.

**22.** Consider the following statements regarding the Mauryan period:
Statement I: The Mauryan period witnessed the widespread use of burnt bricks for construction.
Statement II: The use of ring wells for sanitation and water supply became common during the Mauryan age.
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

**23.** The famous lion capital at Sarnath, which was adopted as the National Emblem of India, was originally part of a:
(A) Minor Rock Edict
(B) Major Rock Edict
(C) Stupa gateway
(D) Pillar Edict of Ashoka

**24.** Which of the following was NOT a measure adopted by Ashoka for the propagation of Dhamma?
(A) Forcibly converting people to his new faith.
(B) Appointing special officers called Dhamma Mahamattas.
(C) Engraving his principles on rocks and pillars.
(D) Sending missions to foreign lands like Sri Lanka.

**25.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): Kautilya's Arthashastra provides a comprehensive blueprint for statecraft and administration.
Reason (R): It discusses the Saptanga theory and the duties of various government functionaries.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**26.** The term 'Guild' in the Mauryan context, known as 'Shreni', refers to:
(A) An organization of craftsmen or merchants.
(B) A caste group with a specific occupation.
(C) A religious sect.
(D) A military unit.

**27.** Identify the correct statement regarding the art and architecture of the Mauryan age.
(A) The use of stone for artistic purposes was unknown before this age.
(B) Mauryan art was exclusively religious with no secular architecture.
(C) Gandhara art style was the most prominent feature of the period.
(D) The age is marked by stone sculpture and rock-cut architecture.

**28.** The Brahmi script, widely used in Ashokan inscriptions, was deciphered for the first time by:
(A) Alexander Cunningham
(B) James Prinsep
(C) William Jones
(D) Max Muller

**29.** The Kharosthi script, used in the northwestern parts of the Mauryan empire, was written:
(A) From left to right.
(B) From top to bottom.
(C) From right to left.
(D) In a result pattern.

**30.** One of the major reasons cited for the disintegration of the Mauryan Empire was:
(A) Devastating foreign invasions after Ashoka.
(B) Lack of any provincial administration system.
(C) Collapse due to the propagation of Dhamma.

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(D) Policy of non-violence which weakened the army.

**31.** Match List I with List II regarding Mauryan administrative divisions and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Division)
P. Chakra
Q. Ahar/Vishaya
R. Grama
S. Sangrahana
List II: (Description)
1. Village
2. A collection of about 10 villages
3. Province
4. District
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**32.** The founder of the Shunga Dynasty, who was the commander-in-chief of the last Mauryan king Brihadratha, was:
(A) Agnimitra
(B) Pushyamitra Shunga
(C) Vasumitra
(D) Devabhuti

**33.** What is the primary significance of Pushyamitra Shunga's reign in religious history?
(A) He was a great patron of Buddhism.
(B) He is associated with a Brahmanical revival.
(C) He promoted Jainism as the state religion.
(D) He was an atheist who suppressed all religions.

**34.** The Kanva dynasty, which succeeded the Shungas, was founded by:
(A) Vasudeva Kanva
(B) Narayana
(C) Bhumimitra
(D) Susharman

**35.** Consider the following statements regarding the Satvahana dynasty:
1. They are identified with the Andhras mentioned in the Puranas.
2. Their rulers often used metronymics, like Gautamiputra Satakarni.
3. They were primarily a sea-faring power based in the Tamil country.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

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**36.** Which Satavahana ruler is famous for defeating the Shaka ruler Nahapana and is praised in the Nasik inscription?
(A) Simuka
(B) Hala
(C) Yajna Sri Satakarni
(D) Gautamiputra Satakarni

**37.** The art of the Satavahana period is best represented by the sculptures at:
(A) Sarnath and Mathura
(B) Ellora and Elephanta
(C) Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda
(D) Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram

**38.** The Pahlavas, or Indo-Parthians, are most famously associated with which king who is said to have been converted by St. Thomas?
(A) Maues
(B) Gondophares
(C) Azes I
(D) Kujula Kadphises

**39.** The term "Bactrians" in the context of post-Mauryan India refers to:
(A) The Shaka invaders from Central Asia.
(B) The Parthian rulers from Iran.
(C) A native dynasty from the Deccan.
(D) The Greek rulers of the region of Bactria.

**40.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The post-Mauryan period was marked by significant political fragmentation in North India.
Reason (R): The collapse of the centralized administration allowed for the rise of indigenous and foreign dynasties.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.

(D) A is false but R is true.

**41.** Among the Indo-Greek rulers, who is famous for his dialogues on Buddhism with the monk Nagasena, as recorded in the text 'Milindapanha'?
(A) Demetrius
(B) Eucratides
(C) Menander
(D) Apollodotus

**42.** What was a significant contribution of the Indo-Greeks to Indian culture?
(A) Introduction of Hellenistic art features.
(B) Introduction of standardized iron coinage.
(C) The development of the early Brahmi script.
(D) The building of large stupas and viharas.

**43.** The Shakas, who invaded India after the Indo-Greeks, were also known as:
(A) Yueh-chis
(B) Parthians
(C) Hunas
(D) Scythians

**44.** Which Shaka ruler of the Saurashtra and Malwa region is renowned for the Junagadh rock inscription?
(A) Nahapana
(B) Rudradaman I
(C) Maues
(D) Chashtana

**45.** Match List I with List II concerning different Shaka branches and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Shaka Khatrapas)
P. Shakas of Taxila
Q. Shakas of Mathura
R. Western Khatrapas (Maharashtra)
S. Western Khatrapas (Saurashtra)
List II: (Prominent Ruler/Family)
1. Nahapana
2. Rudradaman I
3. Maues
4. Rajuvula
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**46.** The Kushan dynasty was founded by which of the following leaders?
(A) Vima Kadphises
(B) Kanishka I
(C) Huvishka
(D) Kujula Kadphises

**47.** The most powerful and famous ruler of the Kushan dynasty, known for his military and spiritual achievements, was:
(A) Kanishka I
(B) Kujula Kadphises
(C) Vima Kadphises
(D) Vasudeva I

**48.** Kanishka's empire was notable for its vast expanse, which included parts of Central Asia and connected:
(A) The Roman Empire with the Deccan plateau.
(B) The Silk Road with the Indian seaports.
(C) The Ganges valley with the Nile valley.
(D) South India with the Southeast Asia region.

**49.** The Fourth Buddhist Council, which marked a significant turning point in the history of Buddhism, was convened under the patronage of:
(A) Ashoka
(B) Kanishka
(C) Menander
(D) Harsha

**50.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding the Kushan era.
(A) The Kushans were staunch patrons of Jainism and suppressed Buddhism.
(B) Kanishka is credited with starting the Shaka era in 78 CE.
(C) The Kushan rulers issued a large number of gold coins.
(D) The Gandhara and Mathura schools of art flourished during this period.

**51.** The Gandhara school of art, which flourished under the Kushans, is a blend of:
(A) Indian themes and Persian style.
(B) Persian themes and Chinese style.
(C) Indian themes and Greek/Roman style.
(D) Indian themes and Egyptian style.

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**52.** The Chedi dynasty of Kalinga rose to prominence under which ruler, whose achievements are detailed in the Hathigumpha inscription?
(A) Ashoka
(B) Simuka
(C) Rudradaman
(D) Kharavela

**53.** According to the Hathigumpha inscription, Kharavela was a follower of which religion?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Ajivika sect
(C) Jainism
(D) Brahmanism

**54.** In the Sangam age, the three major kingdoms of the far south were the Cholas, the Cheras, and the:
(A) Pallavas
(B) Pandyas
(C) Satavahanas
(D) Kadambas

**55.** Consider the following statements about the Sangam Age:
1. Sangam literature is primarily composed in Sanskrit.
2. The literature provides rich details about the social and political life of South India.
3. The Sangams were assemblies of poets patronized by the Pandya kings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**56.** Which of the following was the emblem of the Chola kingdom during the Sangam age?
(A) Tiger
(B) Bow and Arrow
(C) Fish
(D) Lion

**57.** The Chera kingdom of the Sangam age controlled the territory of modern-day:
(A) Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu
(D) Karnataka

**58.** The capital of the Pandya kingdom, famous as a center of trade and the seat of the Sangam assemblies, was:
(A) Madurai
(B) Uraiyur
(C) Vanji
(D) Kanchipuram

**59.** What does the term 'Sangam' literally mean in the context of ancient South Indian history?
(A) A river confluence.
(B) A royal decree.
(C) A type of tax.
(D) An assembly of poets.

**60.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Sangam age economy was vibrant and had extensive trade links with the Roman Empire.
Reason (R): Archaeological evidence, including hoards of Roman coins in South India, supports this.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**61.** The concept of 'Greater India' refers to:
(A) The territorial extent of the Mauryan empire.
(B) The modern political union of South Asian nations.
(C) The historical cultural influence of India on other regions.
(D) A philosophical idea of universal brotherhood.

**62.** The field of ancient Indian astronomy made significant strides. Who among the following is credited with explaining the causes of eclipses?
(A) Charaka
(B) Sushruta
(C) Varahamihira
(D) Aryabhata

**63.** Which ancient Indian text is a comprehensive treatise on medicine, dealing with pathology and therapeutics?

(B) Chemists
(C) Sculptors
(D) Mathematicians

**156.** In the Saptanga theory, 'Mitra' represents:
(A) The system of law and justice.
(B) The allied states or friends of the king.
(C) The network of spies.
(D) The royal family.

**157.** Which Ashokan Pillar Edict is popularly known as the "Queen's Edict"?
(A) Sarnath Pillar Edict
(B) Lauriya Nandangarh Pillar Edict
(C) The Allahabad-Kosam Pillar Edict
(D) Rampurva Pillar Edict

**158.** The social structure during the Mauryan period saw the rise of occupational groups organized into:
(A) Jatis
(B) Kulas
(C) Ganas
(D) Shrenis

**159.** The history of the Satavahana dynasty is primarily constructed from:
(A) Puranas, inscriptions, and coins.
(B) Accounts of Greek travelers only.
(C) Only ancient Sangam literature.
(D) The Buddhist Jataka tales.

**160.** Who among the following was a renowned Indo-Greek king who ruled from Sakala and was a patron of Buddhism?
(A) Demetrius
(B) Menander I
(C) Eucratides
(D) Apollodotus II

**161.** Consider the following statements regarding the Kushans:
Statement I: The Kushans were of Chinese origin.
Statement II: The Kushans adopted Indian religions and became patrons of Indian art.
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

**162.** A medical practitioner observes a description of rhinoplasty in an ancient text. This text is most likely the:
(A) Sushruta Samhita
(B) Arthashastra
(C) Charaka Samhita
(D) Brihat Samhita

**163.** The concept of 'Dharma vijaya' is most elaborately described in which of Ashoka's inscriptions?
(A) Major Rock Edict I
(B) Major Rock Edict VII
(C) Major Rock Edict XIII
(D) Pillar Edict II

**164.** The village was the smallest unit of administration. The head of a group of 10 villages was known as:
(A) Gramika
(B) Sthanika
(C) Rajuka
(D) Gopa

**165.** The art and architecture of the Satavahana period are noted for:
(A) Use of marble and polished surfaces.
(B) Static and monumental figures.
(C) Dynamic sculptures depicting Jatakas.
(D) Complete absence of human figures.

**166.** Rudradaman I is famous for repairing the Sudarshana Lake. This lake was originally built during the reign of:
(A) Ashoka
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Bindusara
(D) Samudragupta

**167.** The Fourth Buddhist Council held under Kanishka led to a major schism between:
(A) The Ajivikas and the Jains.
(B) The Svetambara and Digambara.
(C) Northern and southern schools.
(D) Mahayana and Hinayana schools.

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**74.** The social life during the Mauryan age, as described by sources like Megasthenes' Indica, indicates:
(A) A society divided into seven classes based on occupation.
(B) A classless and egalitarian society.
(C) A society with only four varnas and no other groups.
(D) A society where slavery was completely absent.

**75.** Arrange the following foreign invaders of post-Mauryan India in chronological order of their arrival:
1. Shakas
2. Kushans
3. Indo-Greeks
(A) 3, 1, 2
(B) 1, 3, 2
(C) 2, 1, 3
(D) 3, 2, 1

**76.** The economic life in the Mauryan period was characterized by:
(A) A complete lack of state control over the economy.
(B) A state-controlled economy where agriculture was primary.
(C) An economy based solely on foreign trade.
(D) A barter system with no use of currency.

**77.** The religious life during the Mauryan period was diverse. Which of the following beliefs was NOT prominent during this time?
(A) Brahmanism with its rituals and sacrifices.
(B) The heterodox sects of Buddhism and Jainism.
(C) The Bhakti movement focused on Vishnu and Shiva.
(D) The worship of Yakshas and Yakshinis.

**78.** A key administrative reform of Ashoka was the creation of a class of officials to tour the empire and address grievances. These officials were known as:
(A) Dhamma Mahamattas
(B) Amatyas
(C) Sannidhata
(D) Rajukas

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**79.** The decline of the Mauryan Empire is attributed to several factors. Which of the following is considered a plausible economic reason?
(A) High expenditure on army and bureaucracy.
(B) Discovery of gold leading to hyperinflation.
(C) Shift to a purely trade-based economy.
(D) Refusal of population to pay any taxes.

**80.** What was the most significant achievement of Pushyamitra Shunga's rule?
(A) The patronage and spread of Buddhism.
(B) Defense of the Ganga valley against Greeks.
(C) The compilation of Sangam literature.
(D) Trade relations with the Roman Empire.

**81.** Match List I with List II concerning Sangam Age Kingdoms and their symbols and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Kingdom)
P. Chera
Q. Chola
R. Pandya
S. Mauryan (for comparison)
List II: (Emblem)
1. Fish
2. Tiger
3. Bow and Arrow
4. Dharmachakra
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

**82.** The Satavahana kingdom was located primarily in which region of India?
(A) The Deccan region, encompassing modern Maharashtra.
(B) The Ganga-Yamuna doab.
(C) The far south, including Tamil Nadu.
(D) The northwestern frontier and Punjab.

**83.** The Satavahana era is known for its distinctive contribution to architecture, particularly in the form of:
(A) Large monolithic temples from single rocks.
(B) The use of glazed tiles in royal palaces.
(C) Rock-cut Chaityas, Viharas, and stupas.
(D) Construction of Dravidian-style gopurams.

**84.** The Indo-Greek king Demetrius is known for:
(A) Converting to the Jain religion.

(B) The treasury
(C) The fortified capital
(D) Allies and friends

**107.** Which of the following sources provides a narrative account of Chandragupta Maurya's rise to power with the help of Chanakya?
(A) Ashoka's Edicts
(B) Indica of Megasthenes
(C) Hathigumpha Inscription
(D) Mudrarakshasa of Vishakhadatta

**108.** The administrative reforms of Ashoka were primarily aimed at:
(A) Preparing for new military conquests.
(B) Making administration humane and ethical.
(C) Increasing revenue via new taxes.
(D) Granting autonomy to provinces.

**109.** What is a 'Minor Rock Edict' of Ashoka?
(A) A major edict inscribed on a small rock.
(B) An inscription found in minor provinces.
(C) A set of personal inscriptions with specific content.
(D) An edict issued by a minor official.

**110.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Gandhara and Mathura schools of art represent two distinct artistic traditions.
Reason (R): While Gandhara art was influenced by Hellenistic styles, Mathura art was more indigenous.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**111.** The decline of guilds ('Shreni') in the later Mauryan period is sometimes cited as a symptom of:
(A) A decline in urban life and commerce.
(B) Growing economic prosperity.
(C) Increasing state control over production.
(D) A shift towards an agrarian economy.

**112.** The history of the Kanva dynasty is brief and obscure primarily because:
(A) They ruled a vast empire for centuries.
(B) Their rule was short-lived and their territory was limited.
(C) They destroyed all historical records.
(D) No inscriptions or coins have been found.

**113.** One of the distinguishing features of Satavahana society was:
(A) The use of a patronymic naming system.
(B) The prevalence of a metronymic naming system.
(C) A strict matriarchal system of inheritance.
(D) The complete absence of caste distinctions.

**114.** The term "Shaka Khatrapas of Maharashtra" primarily refers to the dynasty of which ruler?
(A) Nahapana
(B) Rudradaman I
(C) Menander
(D) Gondophares

**115.** Consider the following statements about Kanishka:
1. He is credited with starting the Shaka Era in 78 CE.
2. He was a great patron of Mahayana Buddhism.
3. His winter capital was at Purushapura.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**116.** Kharavela of Kalinga's Hathigumpha inscription is a valuable historical source because:
(A) It is written in Sanskrit, the first of its kind.
(B) It describes his conversion after a major war.
(C) It lists trade routes between Kalinga and Rome.
(D) It provides a detailed year-by-year account.

**117.** Which Sangam kingdom was known for its pearl fisheries and its capital, Madurai?
(A) Chola
(B) Chera
(C) Pandya
(D) Pallava

**118.** The Sangam text Tolkappiyam is a work on:

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(C) He was in charge of the city's police force.
(D) He was the village headman.

**96.** Which Ashokan inscription is bilingual, using both Greek and Aramaic?
(A) The Sarnath pillar inscription
(B) The Kandahar inscription
(C) The Junagadh rock inscription
(D) The Maski inscription

**97.** Consider the following statements regarding Ashoka's Dhamma:
Statement I: Ashoka's Dhamma was identical to the teachings of the Buddha.
Statement II: Dhamma was a universal moral code of conduct.
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

**98.** The high-quality polish, often referred to as "Mauryan polish," is a characteristic feature of:
(A) Mauryan stone pillars and sculptures
(B) Mauryan pottery
(C) Mauryan textiles
(D) Mauryan coinage

**99.** The Brahminical reaction against the Mauryas is often cited as a reason for their decline. This view is supported by:
(A) The peaceful transition of power to the Shungas.
(B) Ashoka's edicts denouncing Brahmanism.
(C) A Brahmin overthrew the last Mauryan king.
(D) The economic prosperity of Brahmins.

**100.** Gautamiputra Satakarni, the great Satavahana ruler, called himself the "destroyer of foreign power". This claim highlights:
(A) His personal patronage of Buddhism.
(B) Peaceful diplomatic relations with neighbors.
(C) His possible ancient Greek ancestry.
(D) Conflict with foreign rulers and Brahminism.

**101.** The Kushan king Vima Kadphises is significant for:
(A) Founder of the Kushan dynasty.
(B) Convening the Fourth Buddhist council.
(C) Large-scale issuance of gold coins.
(D) Defeating the Chinese Han dynasty.

**102.** Which of the following is NOT one of the classifications of Sangam Age poetry and grammar, as established by Tolkappiyam?
(A) Akam (Love)
(B) Dhamma (Righteousness)
(C) Puram (War)
(D) It is classified into Akam and Puram.

**103.** The term "Yavana" in ancient Indian texts originally referred to Ionian Greeks but was later used for:
(A) People from East Asia.
(B) Central Asian steppe people.
(C) Inhabitants of the Deccan.
(D) Foreigners from the West.

**104.** Which of the following ancient Indian knowledge systems would be most concerned with the properties of metals?
(A) Metallurgy
(B) Astronomy
(C) Medical Science
(D) Sculpture

**105.** Match List I with List II regarding terms from Mauryan administration and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Rajukas
Q. Yuktas
R. Sthanikas
S. Gopa
List II: (Function)
1. In charge of land measurement and justice.
2. Subordinate revenue officials.
3. Accountants in charge of 5-10 villages.
4. District-level revenue and tax collectors.
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(C) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

**106.** In the Saptanga theory, 'Danda' refers to:
(A) The army or coercive power of the state

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(A) Muziris
(B) Madurai
(C) Puhar
(D) Korkai

**132.** Sangam literature suggests a society that was:
(A) Entirely pastoral and nomadic.
(B) Utopian society with no conflict.
(C) Dominated by one language.
(D) Highly stratified with cultural zones.

**133.** The development of 'Ayurveda' as a comprehensive system of medicine is most closely associated with:
(A) Aryabhata and Varahamihira
(B) Kautilya and Panini
(C) Charaka and Sushruta
(D) Patanjali and Gautama

**134.** Which element of Kautilya's Saptanga is considered the 'eyes' of the king, referring to the network of spies?
(A) Mitra (Ally)
(B) Not a separate limb of Saptanga.
(C) Danda (Army)
(D) Kosha (Treasury)

**135.** The Mauryan empire's expansion under Chandragupta reached its westernmost limit at the:
(A) Narmada River
(B) Indus River
(C) Brahmaputra River
(D) Hindu Kush mountains

**136.** The City administration of Pataliputra, according to Megasthenes, was conducted by:
(A) Six boards of 5 members each
(B) Four boards of 8 members each
(C) Five boards of 6 members each
(D) Ten boards of 3 members each

**137.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about Ashoka's inscriptions?
(A) They were a means to communicate with subjects.
(B) They are found in India, Nepal, and Pakistan.
(C) All inscriptions are exclusively about Buddhism.
(D) James Prinsep was the first to decipher them.

**138.** The Mauryan period saw the production of a distinctive type of pottery known as:
(A) Northern Black Polished Ware
(B) Painted Grey Ware
(C) Ochre Coloured Pottery
(D) Red and Black Ware

**139.** One of the political reasons for the downfall of the Mauryan Empire was:
(A) Rise of a powerful merchant class.
(B) Democratic nature of the government.
(C) Peaceful secession of all provinces.
(D) Oppression by provincial bureaucrats.

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**140.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Satavahana rulers patronized both Brahmanism and Buddhism.
Reason (R): Rulers performed Vedic sacrifices while also donating for Buddhist stupas.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**141.** The Bactrian Greeks (Indo-Greeks) were the first rulers in India to:
(A) Use Sanskrit in their administration.
(B) Build stupas.
(C) Issue coins with portraits of the kings.
(D) Practice matriarchal succession.

**142.** The "Shakas of Taxila" were established by which ruler?
(A) Nahapana
(B) Rudradaman
(C) Gondophares
(D) Maues

**143.** Which Kushan ruler was a devout Shaiva before the ascendancy of Kanishka?
(A) Vima Kadphises
(B) Kujula Kadphises
(C) Huvishka
(D) Vasudeva I

(A) Epic poetry
(B) Tamil grammar
(C) Ethics and morals
(D) The art of warfare

**119.** A physician in ancient India who is the author of the 'Charaka Samhita' is:
(A) Sushruta
(B) Varahamihira
(C) Aryabhata
(D) Charaka

**120.** Which of the following is NOT a correct pair?
(A) Chaitya - Royal audience hall
(B) Stupa - Buddhist reliquary mound
(C) Vihar - Monks' residence
(D) Saptanga - Theory of the state

**121.** The central administration of Chandragupta Maurya was managed by a council of ministers known as the:
(A) Saptanga
(B) Sabha
(C) Mantriparishad
(D) Samiti

**122.** Ashoka's policy of 'Dharma vijaya' was first articulated after which major event?
(A) The Kalinga War
(B) His coronation
(C) The Third Buddhist Council
(D) His mission to Sri Lanka

**123.** The 'Minor Pillar Edicts' of Ashoka are distinct from the main Pillar Edicts and include inscriptions like:
(A) Banning animal slaughter.
(B) Account of the Kalinga war.
(C) List of protected animals.
(D) Warning against schisms.

**124.** The presence of Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts in the Mauryan empire indicates:
(A) Uniform script was enforced throughout.
(B) Links spanning regions with different scripts.
(C) Kharosthi for religion and Brahmi for admin.
(D) Brahmi evolved from Kharosthi script.

**125.** Arrange the following dynasties in chronological order of their establishment:
1. Kanva
2. Shunga
3. Maurya
4. Satavahana
(A) 3, 2, 1, 4
(B) 2, 3, 4, 1
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 4, 3, 1, 2

**126.** A major achievement of Pushyamitra Shunga was the performance of the 'Ashvamedha', which signified:
(A) Submission to a greater power.
(B) Conversion to the Buddhist faith.
(C) Peace treaty with the Indo-Greeks.
(D) Assertion of imperial sovereignty.

**127.** The Satavahanas are often considered a bridge between the north and south of India because:
(A) They facilitated the transmission of culture to the south.
(B) They built bridges across the Narmada river.
(C) They ruled North and South simultaneously.
(D) They exclusively used southern languages.

**128.** Eucratides was a famous:
(A) Shaka ruler who fought Satavahanas.
(B) Indo-Greek king who ruled from Taxila.
(C) Kushan general under King Kanishka.
(D) Monk who debated with King Menander.

**129.** The term 'Shak Khatrapas of Saurashtra and Malwa' is most famously associated with the dynasty of:
(A) Maues
(B) Chashtana and Rudradaman I
(C) Nahapana
(D) Kanishka

**130.** Kushan art is a syncretic blend where images show Buddhist, Brahmanical, and Zoroastrian figures. What does this demonstrate?
(A) Eclectic religious and cultural outlook.
(B) Lack of any coherent religious policy.
(C) Imposition of a foreign culture on India.
(D) A complete rejection of Indian traditions.

**131.** The main port city for the Chola kingdom during the Sangam period was:

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(B) Issuing gold coins in the region.
(C) Writing the text of 'Milindapanha'.
(D) Invading deep into the Gangetic valley.

**85.** Consider the following statements about the Shakas:
1. They established multiple branches of rule, known as Khatrapas.
2. They were completely defeated and expelled by the Satavahanas.
3. Their most famous ruler was Rudradaman I.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**86.** Kanishka's administration was modeled on:
(A) The highly centralized Mauryan system.
(B) A system with rulers known as Satraps.
(C) The democratic system of city-states.
(D) The tribal council system of the Yueh-chi.

**87.** Which art form, patronized by the Kushans, is known for creating anthropomorphic images of the Buddha in an indigenous style?
(A) Amaravati School
(B) Gandhara School
(C) Mauryan School
(D) Mathura School

**88.** The main theme of Sangam literature can be broadly divided into 'agam' (love) and 'puram' (war/public life). Which of the following classifications does this reflect?
(A) A literary and social classification
(B) A political classification
(C) An economic classification
(D) A religious classification

**89.** A major aspect of the Sangam age economy was the export of which of the following items to the Roman Empire?
(A) Iron and steel tools
(B) Silk and cotton textiles
(C) Spices and precious stones
(D) Horses and royal elephants

**90.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Mauryan state under Chandragupta and Kautilya had an elaborate espionage system.
Reason (R): The Arthashastra describes various types of spies and their importance in maintaining control.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**91.** The Sushruta Samhita, an ancient text, is primarily concerned with which field of knowledge?
(A) Ancient Astronomy
(B) Political Science
(C) Sanskrit Grammar
(D) Surgical Procedures

**92.** The concept of 'Dandaniti' in the Arthashastra primarily relates to:
(A) The principle of righteous conquest.
(B) The art of punishment and maintaining law and order.
(C) The foreign policy of the state.
(D) The rules of taxation.

**93.** Who was Chandragupta Maurya's primary mentor and advisor, credited with masterminding the overthrow of the Nanda dynasty?
(A) Megasthenes
(B) Ashoka
(C) Kautilya
(D) Bindusara

**94.** The last Mauryan emperor, Brihadratha, was assassinated by:
(A) His own son
(B) A Greek invader
(C) A popular revolt
(D) His commander-in-chief

**95.** In Mauryan provincial administration, what was the role of the 'Pradesika'?
(A) He combined executive and judicial functions in the district.
(B) He was the treasurer of the province.

**144.** The Chera kingdom of the Sangam Age had a flourishing trade in spices through which major port?
(A) Puhar
(B) Muziris
(C) Korkai
(D) Madurai

**145.** Consider the following statements about Ancient Indian Knowledge Systems:
1. Aryabhata proposed the heliocentric theory and calculated pi.
2. The Sushruta Samhita describes complex surgeries, including plastic surgery.
3. The use of the decimal system was a Roman invention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**146.** Kautilya's Arthashastra mentions 'Vishti' as a source of state income. What does this imply?
(A) State used forced labor for public works.
(B) State relied on voluntary donations.
(C) All labor was paid for in gold coins.
(D) State did not interfere in labor.

**147.** Chandragupta Maurya's conquest of western India is evidenced by:
(A) Ashoka's edicts in that region.
(B) Writings of Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien.
(C) Inscription mentioning a governor's dam.
(D) Mauryan-style pottery in Gujarat.

**148.** Ashoka's early life, before his consecration as emperor, involved him serving as a viceroy in:
(A) Kalinga and Tosali
(B) Suvarnagiri and Pataliputra
(C) Kamboja and Gandhara
(D) Taxila and Ujjain

**149.** The content of Ashoka's Major Rock Edicts primarily deals with:
(A) Autobiography and family history.
(B) Conquered territories and war spoils.
(C) Dhamma and administrative policies.
(D) Doctrines of Mahayana Buddhism.

**150.** Match List I with List II regarding post-Mauryan dynasties and their founders and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Shunga
Q. Kanva
R. Satavahana
S. Kushan
List II: (Founder)
1. Simuka
2. Kujula Kadphises
3. Pushyamitra
4. Vasudeva
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**151.** The economic life in the Satavahana kingdom was characterized by:
(A) A decline in trade and urbanization.
(B) A complete ban on merchant guilds.
(C) An economy based solely on pastoralism.
(D) Flourishing trade and issuance of coins.

**152.** The conflict between the Western Khatrapas and the Satavahanas was mainly over:
(A) Control of ports and trade routes.
(B) The fertile Gangetic plains.
(C) The diamond mines of Golconda.
(D) The religious center of Pataliputra.

**153.** A distinguishing feature of Kanishka's administration was the dual system of satraps. What was the likely purpose?
(A) Promoting artistic competition.
(B) Dividing the province in halves.
(C) Ensuring checks and balances.
(D) Training junior administrators.

**154.** The literature of the Sangam Age is an invaluable source for South India. This literature is primarily in:
(A) Tamil
(B) Sanskrit
(C) Pali
(D) Telugu

**155.** The concept of zero as a number was a revolutionary contribution of ancient Indian:
(A) Physicists

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(A) Charaka Samhita
(B) Artha-shashtra
(C) Brihat Samhita
(D) Surya Siddhanta

**64.** The Iron Pillar of Delhi, located near the Qutub Minar, is a testament to the advanced knowledge of ancient Indian:
(A) Astronomy
(B) Metallurgy
(C) Sculpture
(D) Chemistry

**65.** Match List I with List II concerning ancient Indian scholars and their fields and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Scholar)
P. Aryabhata
Q. Sushruta
R. Varahamihira
S. Kautilya
List II: (Field)
1. Surgery
2. Astronomy and Encyclopedia
3. Statecraft
4. Astronomy and Mathematics
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

**66.** The development of the decimal system and the concept of zero are significant contributions from ancient India in the field of:
(A) Mathematics
(B) Physics
(C) Chemistry
(D) Medical Science

**67.** Which of the following is NOT a part of Kautilya's Saptanga theory of the state?
(A) Janapada (Territory)
(B) Danda (Army)
(C) Praja (Subjects' welfare)
(D) Kosha (Treasury)

**68.** The "Priyadarshi" title, frequently used in Ashokan inscriptions, translates to:
(A) The all-powerful conqueror.
(B) The righteous king.
(C) The father of his people.
(D) He who is beloved of the gods.

**69.** Consider the following statements regarding the Mauryan administration:
Statement I: The provincial heads in the Mauryan administration were often royal princes.
Statement II: The central government exercised no control over the provincial governors.
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

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**70.** The village administration under the Mauryas was headed by a person known as:
(A) Nagarika
(B) Gramika
(C) Samaharta
(D) Rajuka

**71.** Ashoka's rock edicts are a primary source for understanding his reign. Which script was used for the inscriptions found in the extreme northwestern part of his empire?
(A) Brahmi script only
(B) Kharosthi script only
(C) Pali religious script
(D) Greek and Aramaic

**72.** What was the most significant consequence of the Battle of Kalinga for Ashoka?
(A) Personal transformation and adoption of Dhamma.
(B) Economic bankruptcy of the Mauryan empire.
(C) Beginning of military campaigns in the south.
(D) Fragmentation of the empire after a rebellion.

**73.** The Barabar cave inscriptions in Bihar provide evidence of Ashoka's patronage towards which sect?
(A) Buddhists
(B) Jains
(C) Ajivikas
(D) Brahmins

**168.** The primary deity worshipped by the people of the Sangam Age was:
(A) Murugan
(B) Buddha
(C) Vishnu
(D) Shiva

**169.** What does the term "Greater India" signify in a historical context?
(A) Period when India was geographically largest.
(B) Union envisioned by modern leaders.
(C) Expansion of culture to Southeast Asia.
(D) Ancient name in the Greek texts.

**170.** Which of the following is NOT considered a contribution of ancient Indian mathematics?
(A) The development of calculus
(B) The concept of zero
(C) The decimal place-value system
(D) The calculation of Pi

**171.** The chief of the city police in the Mauryan administration was known as the:
(A) Samaharta
(B) Durgapala
(C) Antapala
(D) Nagarika

**172.** The term 'Saptanga' literally means 'seven limbs'. Which of the following is NOT one of these limbs?
(A) Svamin (the king)
(B) Varna (the caste system)
(C) Amatya (the minister)
(D) Durga (the fort)

**173.** Which rock edict of Ashoka mentions the names of contemporary Greek kings?
(A) Rock Edict V
(B) Rock Edict IX
(C) Rock Edict XIII
(D) Rock Edict II

**174.** The material culture of the Mauryan age is distinguished by the first large-scale use of what?
(A) Mud and thatch
(B) Wood
(C) Bronze
(D) Stone

**175.** Consider the following statements regarding the fall of the Mauryan Empire:
1. The vastness of the empire made it difficult to control.
2. The successors of Ashoka were weak rulers.
3. Pacifist policies weakened the military might.

Which of the statements given above are plausible reasons?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**176.** Which dynasty, ruling from Pratishthana, was a major power in the Deccan for 400 years?
(A) Cholas
(B) Satavahanas
(C) Shungas
(D) Kanvas

**177.** The 'Periplus of the Erythraean Sea' provides detailed information about:
(A) The Mauryan court
(B) Indo-Roman trade and ports
(C) Ashoka's Dhamma philosophy
(D) Kushan military tactics

**178.** The 'Shakas of Ujjain' were in constant conflict with which Deccan power?
(A) The Satavahanas
(B) The Cholas
(C) The Pandyas
(D) The Kushans

**179.** Kanishka era literature saw the flourishing of Buddhist scholars. Who among the following was a contemporary?
(A) Kalidasa
(B) Banabhatta
(C) Ashvaghosha
(D) Harisena

**180.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): Sangam literature is a crucial source for understanding South India.
Reason (R): It was composed by a single author providing a consistent view.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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(A) Democratic election of the king.
(B) Bureaucracy with many departments.
(C) Absence of a standing army.
(D) Rule by religious leaders.

**263.** The Major Pillar Edicts are found at all the following places EXCEPT:
(A) Lauriya-Nandangarh
(B) Amaravati
(C) Delhi-Topra
(D) Sanchi

**264.** The art and architecture under the Satavahanas is best exemplified by:
(A) Karle Chaitya and Amaravati stupa.
(B) The lion capital at Sarnath.
(C) The Iron Pillar at Delhi.
(D) Monolithic temples at Mahabalipuram.

**265.** The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman I is a landmark because it is:
(A) Only inscription of Shaka rulers.
(B) Written in Kharosthi script.
(C) First royal inscription in chaste Sanskrit.
(D) A record of his major defeat.

**266.** Kanishka's patronage was crucial for which school of Buddhism?
(A) Hinayana
(B) Theravada
(C) Vajrayana
(D) Mahayana

**267.** The term 'Sangam' refers to assemblies held in:
(A) Kanchipuram
(B) Kaveripattinam
(C) Madurai
(D) Vanji

**268.** The Saptanga theory, an organic model of the state, is attributed to:
(A) Ashoka in his edicts.
(B) Kautilya in the Arthashastra.
(C) Megasthenes in the Indica.
(D) The Sangam poets.

**269.** Conquest of which region extended the empire to the Arabian Sea?
(A) Kalinga
(B) Magadha
(C) The Ganga-Yamuna doab
(D) Saurashtra

**270.** The content of Ashoka's Dhamma emphasizes:
(A) Social responsibility and non-violence.
(B) Ritual purity and sacrifices.
(C) The worship of Ashoka as a god.
(D) The supremacy of Buddhism.

**271.** The difference between Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts is their:
(A) Religious vs. secular purpose.
(B) Complexity of characters.
(C) Origin and direction of writing.
(D) Material written on.

**272.** The religious policy of the Satavahana rulers can be described as:
(A) Tolerant personal Brahmanism.
(B) Exclusively Buddhist.
(C) Strictly Jain.
(D) Atheistic.

**273.** Who was the most important ruler of the Chedi dynasty?
(A) Ashoka
(B) Simuka
(C) Menander
(D) Kharavela

**274.** Which was a major port of the Pandyas in the Sangam Age?
(A) Muziris
(B) Korkai
(C) Puhar
(D) Tondi

**275.** Aryabhata's contribution to astronomy includes all EXCEPT:
(A) Theory that Earth rotates.
(B) Explanation for eclipses.
(C) Discovery of universal gravitation.
(D) Approximation of pi value.

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**276.** What is 'Vishti' in the Mauryan context?
(A) A tax paid in cash.
(B) A voluntary gift to the king.
(C) A trade guild.
(D) Forced labor for state projects.

**277.** Which event prompted Ashoka to adopt Dhamma Ghosha over Bheri Ghosha?
(A) The destruction from the Kalinga War.

(A) Rajukas
(B) Adhyakshas
(C) Mahamattas
(D) Gopa

**194.** The religious life during the Mauryan age was marked by:
(A) A plurality of faiths across the empire.
(B) The singular dominance of Buddhism.
(C) Exclusive patronage of Brahmanism.
(D) Absence of popular cults like Yaksha.

**195.** Arrange the following events from Ashoka's life in chronological order:
1. Conquest of Kalinga
2. Appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas
3. Accession to the throne
4. Convening the Third Buddhist Council

(A) 3, 1, 2, 4
(B) 1, 3, 4, 2
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 2, 4, 3, 1

**196.** The Pahlavas are primarily associated with ruling which part of the subcontinent?
(A) The deep South
(B) The Ganga valley
(C) The Deccan plateau
(D) The Northwestern region

**197.** The most famous ruler of the Pahlava dynasty was:
(A) Maues
(B) Azes
(C) Gondophares
(D) Vima Kadphises

**198.** The 'Shak Khatrapas of Mathura' were known for their patronage of:
(A) The Greek Orthodox Church.
(B) Jainism and the art traditions of Mathura.
(C) Zoroastrianism.
(D) Exclusively Brahmanical rituals.

**199.** One of the greatest literary figures of the Kushan period was Ashvaghosha, who authored:
(A) The Arthashastra
(B) The Tolkappiyam
(C) The Milindapanha
(D) The Buddhacharita

**200.** What was the primary reason for the economic prosperity of the Pandya kingdom?
(A) Pearl fisheries and trade with Rome.
(B) Agricultural surplus from Kaveri.
(C) Extensive gold mining operations.
(D) Monopoly on the horse trade.

**201.** Which ancient Indian text provides a classification of plants and guidance on agriculture?
(A) The Natya Shastra
(B) The Kama Sutra
(C) The Arthashastra
(D) The Manu Smriti

**202.** The term 'Kara' in Mauryan administration referred to:
(A) A regular tax on agricultural produce
(B) A gift offered to the king
(C) A tax on merchandise
(D) A water tax

**203.** The journey of Chandragupta Maurya to Shravanabelagola is a tenet of which tradition?
(A) Buddhist
(B) Ajivika
(C) Brahmanical
(D) Jain

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**204.** The Mauryan village headman was assisted by:
(A) A council of ministers.
(B) The village elders.
(C) A detachment of the army.
(D) A centrally appointed spy.

**205.** Consider the following statements regarding Ashokan inscriptions:
Statement I: Pillar Edicts are more uniform in content than Rock Edicts.
Statement II: Pillar Edicts were inscribed on polished sandstone pillars.
(A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

**206.** The script used for most of Ashoka's inscriptions was:
(A) Kharosthi
(B) Aramaic
(C) Greek
(D) Brahmi

**207.** A factor in the disintegration of the Mauryan Empire was development in outlying provinces. This resulted in:
(A) A desire for greater autonomy.
(B) Greater dependence on Pataliputra.
(C) A cultural renaissance in the capital.
(D) Abandonment of these regions.

**208.** The Shunga period is noted for the art and architecture of which Buddhist sites?
(A) Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda
(B) Bharhut and gateways of Sanchi
(C) Ajanta and Ellora
(D) Elephanta and Karle

**209.** The Satavahanas were succeeded in the western Deccan by the:
(A) Pallavas
(B) Vakatakas
(C) Chalukyas
(D) Guptas

**210.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Kushan period was a time of cultural syncretism.
Reason (R): Kushan rulers facilitated trade and blended diverse cultural elements.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**211.** The Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela is located in:
(A) The Barabar Hills
(B) Junagadh
(C) The Udayagiri Hills
(D) Sanchi

**212.** Which of the following statements about Sangam Age culture is incorrect?
(A) Society was divided into various groups.
(B) The worship of Murugan was popular.
(C) Hero stones were erected for warriors.
(D) There was no foreign trade.

**213.** Varahamihira's 'Brihat Samhita' covers a range of topics EXCEPT:
(A) Political philosophy and statecraft
(B) Astronomy and astrology
(C) Geography and architecture
(D) Gemology and omens

**214.** The term 'Saptanga' refers to the seven organs of the state. This is central to the philosophy of:
(A) Ashoka
(B) Kautilya
(C) Menander
(D) Kharavela

**215.** Match List I with List II regarding Mauryan officials and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Official)
P. Sannidhata
Q. Samaharta
R. Nagarika
S. Gramika
List II: (Duty)
1. Head of village administration
2. City Superintendent
3. Collector-General of Revenue
4. Chief of the Treasury
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**216.** What was the most significant achievement of Chandragupta Maurya's military career?
(A) Defeat of the Nanda dynasty.
(B) The conquest of Kalinga.
(C) The establishment of Dhamma.
(D) The first Buddhist council.

**217.** Ashoka appointed officials called 'Pativedakas' who were essentially:
(A) Tax collectors
(B) Military generals
(C) Royal reporters and informers
(D) Judges for religious disputes

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**218.** The Mauryan state's significant control over which industry was a major source of revenue?
(A) Software development
(B) Textile production
(C) Private education
(D) Mining and metallurgy

**219.** The decline of the Mauryan Empire began after Ashoka's death. Who was his immediate successor?
(A) Brihadratha
(B) Samprati
(C) Kunala
(D) Jalauka

**220.** The later Shunga rulers became weak and their authority was confined to:
(A) The Deccan
(B) Magadha
(C) The Northwest
(D) Kalinga

**221.** The Hala's Gathasaptasati, a Prakrit text, is attributed to which dynasty?
(A) Shunga
(B) Kushan
(C) Maurya
(D) Satavahana

**222.** Which of the following is the most accurate description of the Pahlavas?
(A) Parthians from Iran in the Northwest.
(B) Greeks from Bactria.
(C) A native dynasty from the Deccan.
(D) They were the same as the Kushans.

**223.** The capital of Kanishka's vast empire was:
(A) Pataliputra
(B) Taxila
(C) Purushapura
(D) Ujjain

**224.** The Sangam literature's focus on war and heroism is captured in poems called:
(A) Puram
(B) Agam
(C) Tinais
(D) Manram

**225.** The ancient Indian knowledge of metallurgy is famously exemplified by:
(A) The Great Stupa at Sanchi.
(B) The rock-cut caves of Ajanta.
(C) The lion capital of Ashoka.
(D) The rust-resistant Iron Pillar of Delhi.

**226.** The concept of 'Guild' (Shreni) was significant because these bodies:
(A) Functioned as religious groups.
(B) Acted as banks and managed trade.
(C) Were always suppressed by state.
(D) Included only foreign merchants.

**227.** The four main provinces mentioned in Ashokan edicts were Tosali, Ujjain, Suvarnagiri, and:
(A) Pataliputra
(B) Indraprastha
(C) Taxila
(D) Vaishali

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**228.** Ashoka's Dhamma was NOT:
(A) A code of moral and ethical conduct.
(B) A policy to promote social welfare.
(C) An ideology to unify an empire.
(D) A new religious sect with rituals.

**229.** The economic policies described in Kautilya's Arthashastra suggest:
(A) A highly state-regulated economy.
(B) A laissez-faire or free-market economy.
(C) A purely agrarian and non-monetized economy.
(D) An economy based on foreign trade.

**230.** The art of the Satavahana period at Amaravati shows a preference for:
(A) Red Sandstone
(B) White/Greyish Marble
(C) Grey-blue Schist
(D) Bronze

**231.** The Indo-Greeks influenced subsequent Indian:
(A) Sculpture
(B) Numismatics
(C) Architecture
(D) Literature

**232.** Kanishka's statue found at Mathura is a prime example of royalty. What is a striking feature?
(A) Central Asian attire and martial ID.
(B) King in a seated meditative pose.
(C) Carved in Hellenistic style.

(A) Megasthenes
(B) Kautilya
(C) Kalidasa
(D) Panini

**293.** The capital city of the Mauryan Empire was:
(A) Taxila
(B) Ujjain
(C) Pataliputra
(D) Vaishali

**294.** Which Mauryan ruler embraced Buddhism after the Kalinga War?
(A) Bindusara
(B) Ashoka
(C) Chandragupta Maurya
(D) Dasharatha

**295.** The Greek ambassador who visited the court of Chandragupta Maurya was:
(A) Seleucus
(B) Megasthenes
(C) Herodotus
(D) Pliny

**296.** The policy of Dhamma was propagated by which Mauryan ruler?
(A) Bindusara
(B) Ashoka
(C) Chandragupta Maurya
(D) Brihadratha

**297.** The last ruler of the Mauryan dynasty was:
(A) Ashoka
(B) Bindusara
(C) Brihadratha
(D) Dasharatha

**298.** The founder of the Shunga dynasty was:
(A) Pushyamitra Shunga
(B) Agnimitra
(C) Vasudeva
(D) Simuka

**299.** Ashoka's inscriptions were mostly written in which script?
(A) Brahmi
(B) Devanagari
(C) Tamil
(D) Grantha

**300.** The famous Lion Capital adopted as the National Emblem of India is located at:
(A) Sanchi
(B) Sarnath
(C) Bharhut
(D) Amaravati

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(B) Monolithic polished stone pillars.
(C) The worship of Yakshas.
(D) The construction of stupas.

**248.** One of the principal achievements of Pushyamitra Shunga was:
(A) Repulsion of Bactrian Greek invasions.
(B) Promotion of Buddhism.
(C) Conquest of South India.
(D) Codification of Sangam literature.

**249.** The Satavahanas are known for their coins made of:
(A) Gold
(B) Silver
(C) Lead and Potin
(D) Iron

**250.** Astrology in ancient India reflects a contribution to the field of:
(A) Medical Science
(B) Metallurgy
(C) Sculpture
(D) Astronomy

**251.** The decline of the Kushan empire was partly due to:
(A) A devastating plague.
(B) Conversion to Jainism.
(C) Rise of the Sassanian empire.
(D) A social revolution.

**252.** The main economic activity in 'Marutam' landscape was:
(A) Pastoralism
(B) Plough agriculture
(C) Fishing and salt-making
(D) Hunting and gathering

**253.** Use of 'Kara' and 'Vishti' by the Mauryan state demonstrates its:
(A) Weak control over the economy.
(B) Reliance on trade for income.
(C) Commitment to a welfare state.
(D) Power to extract resources and labor.

**254.** The Mauryan system of provincial administration was designed to:
(A) Manage a large empire effectively.
(B) Grant full independence.
(C) Collect tribute without rule.
(D) Prepare for democratic elections.

**255.** The Maski and Gurjara edicts of Ashoka are important because they:
(A) Are the longest edicts.
(B) Are written in Greek.
(C) Mention his personal name, Ashoka.
(D) Describe his daily routine.

**256.** A key difference between a Chaitya and a Vihar is that:
(A) Chaitya is a prayer hall; Vihar is a monastery.
(B) Chaitya is a residence; Vihar is a shrine.
(C) Chaityas are Buddhist; Vihars are Jain.
(D) Terms are interchangeable.

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**257.** Which of the following is NOT a plausible reason for the fall of the Mauryan Empire?
(A) Weak successors of Ashoka.
(B) Partition after Ashoka's death.
(C) Economic and financial crisis.
(D) Gunpowder leading to defeat.

**258.** The dynasty that immediately succeeded the Shungas in Magadha was the:
(A) Satavahanas
(B) Kanvas
(C) Kushans
(D) Guptas

**259.** The Gandhara school of art primarily depicted:
(A) Scenes from the Ramayana.
(B) Lives of Jain Tirthankaras.
(C) Buddhist life in Greco-Roman style.
(D) Portraits of Mauryan emperors.

**260.** The economic condition of the Sangam Age was boosted by trade with:
(A) The Persian Empire
(B) The Egyptian Kingdom
(C) The Greek city-states
(D) The Roman Empire

**261.** In the ancient Indian knowledge system, 'Rasayana' was concerned with:
(A) Chemistry and rejuvenation therapies.
(B) Astronomy and planet movement.
(C) Rules of grammar and linguistics.
(D) Principles of statecraft.

**262.** A feature of Chandragupta Maurya's central administration was the:

(D) Head of statue is preserved.

**233.** Kharavela's inscription mentions a campaign against the king of Magadha, identified as:
(A) Ashoka
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Brihaspatimitra
(D) Pushyamitra Shunga

**234.** The religion and beliefs of the Sangam Age people were:
(A) Exclusively Buddhist.
(B) Entirely based on Vedic rituals.
(C) Dominated by Jainism.
(D) Mix of animism and Brahminism.

**235.** The term 'Physics' in ancient Indian knowledge would include theories about:
(A) Laws of thermodynamics.
(B) Quantum mechanics.
(C) The five elements (Pancha Mahabhutas).
(D) Structure of the atom.

**236.** What was the reason for the Mauryan state to maintain a large army under Ashoka?
(A) To continue aggressive expansion.
(B) To maintain control over a large empire.
(C) To provide employment for youth.
(D) Ashoka had disbanded the army.

**237.** The Mauryan polished stone pillars were typically made of:
(A) Granite from South India.
(B) Marble from Rajasthan.
(C) Laterite from the Deccan.
(D) Sandstone from Chunar.

**238.** The final dynasty to rule from Magadha before the rise of the Guptas was the:
(A) The history is obscure.
(B) Mauryas
(C) Shungas
(D) Kanvas

**239.** In ancient Indian technology, construction of Sudarshana lake signifies:
(A) A religious ritual.
(B) A recreational facility.
(C) Advanced hydraulic engineering.
(D) A natural formation.

**240.** The rise of the Shaka Khatrapas posed a challenge to which contemporary dynasty?
(A) The Satavahanas
(B) The Mauryas
(C) The Guptas
(D) The Pandyas

**241.** The Kushan Empire's location was strategic because it straddled:
(A) Mediterranean and Atlantic routes.
(B) Sea lanes between India and Africa.
(C) Riverine routes of the Amazon.
(D) Silk Road connecting China and Rome.

**242.** The social condition of women in the Sangam Age appears to be:
(A) Complete equality with men.
(B) Contradictory roles in patriarchy.
(C) Highly restricted domestic role.
(D) Completely matriarchal.

**243.** The concept of "Dandaniti" is most elaborately discussed in:
(A) Ashoka's Edicts
(B) The Puranas
(C) Kautilya's Artha-shashtra
(D) The Milindapanha

**244.** Which of the following is a correct description of a Vihar?
(A) Reliquary commemorative mound.
(B) Rock-cut prayer hall.
(C) Fortified city gate.
(D) Monastery dwelling place.

**245.** Knowledge of the Indica comes from:
(A) Quotations in works of later writers.
(B) Recent archaeological discovery.
(C) Translation found in China.
(D) References in the Puranas.

**246.** The effect of the Kalinga war on Ashoka is known primarily from:
(A) Greek accounts
(B) Major Rock Edict XIII
(C) Sri Lankan chronicles
(D) Jain texts

**247.** Which Mauryan cultural element demonstrates Persian influence?
(A) The use of the Brahmi script.

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(B) A revolt in Taxila.
(C) The death of Bindusara.
(D) Advice of mentor Kautilya.

**278.** The Shunga dynasty was founded by Pushyamitra Shunga, who was a:
(A) Buddhist monk
(B) Brahmin general of the army
(C) Jain ascetic
(D) Greek envoy

**279.** The most famous Indo-Greek ruler, Menander, had his capital at:
(A) Pataliputra
(B) Sakala
(C) Taxila
(D) Mathura

**280.** The Kushan dynasty belonged to which branch of the Yueh-chi tribe?
(A) The Kuei-shuang
(B) The Xiongnu
(C) The Pahlavas
(D) The Scythians

**281.** Sangam is a term associated with the history of:
(A) Ancient Bengal
(B) Ancient Gujarat
(C) Ancient South India
(D) Ancient Punjab

**282.** The rock-cut architecture of the Mauryan period is found at:
(A) Sanchi and Sarnath
(B) Ajanta and Ellora
(C) Mahabalipuram
(D) Barabar and Nagarjuni Hills

**283.** Which is an INCORRECT pairing of a Sangam kingdom and capital?
(A) Cholas - Uraiyur
(B) Cheras - Vanji
(C) Pallavas - Kanchipuram
(D) Pandyas - Madurai

**284.** In Kautilya's Arthashastra, the 'Samaharta' was in charge of:
(A) The royal treasury
(B) Collection of revenue
(C) The army
(D) The judiciary

**285.** Which script was used in the North-Western part of the Mauryan Empire?
(A) Brahmi
(B) Greek
(C) Devanagari
(D) Kharosthi

**286.** A significant aspect of Satavahana administration was tax-free land grants to:
(A) Brahmins and Buddhist monks.
(B) Only military commanders.
(C) Only royal family members.
(D) Foreign traders.

**287.** The Shaka Era, starting in 78 CE, is believed to have been founded by:
(A) Rudradaman I
(B) Maues
(C) Kanishka
(D) Nahapana

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**288.** The social life as depicted in Sangam literature shows:
(A) Interaction of local and Brahmanical ideas.
(B) A casteless society.
(C) Strong four-fold varna system influence.
(D) Dominance of Buddhist social norms.

**289.** The most significant contribution of ancient Indian mathematics was the:
(A) Pythagorean theorem.
(B) Concept of logarithms.
(C) Invention of algebra.
(D) Decimal system and zero.

**290.** The Mauryan empire disintegrated quickly after Ashoka. What does this illustrate?
(A) Success of a decentralized model.
(B) Dependence on a strong, capable leader.
(C) Peace in political transitions.
(D) Lack of administrative structure.

**291.** Who was the founder of the Mauryan Empire in ancient India?
(A) Ashoka
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Bindusara
(D) Pushyamitra Shunga

**292.** The famous political treatise Arthashastra was written by:

(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**181.** Who among the ancient Indian astronomers is credited with writing the 'Pancha-siddhantika'?
(A) Aryabhata
(B) Brahmagupta
(C) Varahamihira
(D) Bhaskara I

**182.** A 'Stupa' fundamentally serves as:
(A) A place for monks to live.
(B) A commemorative monument with relics.
(C) A congregational prayer hall.
(D) A center for secular education.

**183.** Which of the following Mauryan officials was primarily responsible for revenue collection?
(A) Sannidhata
(B) Adhyaksha
(C) Kumar
(D) Samaharta

**184.** The Rummindei Pillar Inscription of Ashoka is significant because:
(A) It mentions his visit to Lumbini and tax reduction.
(B) It records his conversion to Buddhism.
(C) It lists the names of his children.
(D) It declares the prohibition of sacrifice.

**185.** The society of the Satavahana period appears to have been a blend of influences. Which feature suggests this?
(A) Exclusive use of Prakrit in all life.
(B) Complete rejection of the caste system.
(C) Rulers' metronymics and Vedic sacrifices.
(D) Adoption of Greek as the official language.

**186.** The famous 'Milindapanha' is a dialogue between King Menander and:
(A) Nagasena
(B) Ashvaghosha
(C) Nagarjuna
(D) Vasubandhu

**187.** Which material was predominantly used by the Mathura School of Art?
(A) Bluish-grey schist
(B) White marble
(C) Bronze
(D) Spotted red sandstone

**188.** In Sangam terminology, the five eco-zones were classified based on:
(A) Their political allegiance.
(B) Geographical features and social life.
(C) The caste of their inhabitants.
(D) The language they spoke.

**189.** A key aspect of the ancient Indian knowledge system in medical science was:
(A) Surgical intervention as the only cure.
(B) Faith healing as the primary treatment.
(C) Holistic diet and hygiene approach.
(D) Rejection of empirical observation.

**190.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the options given below:
List I: (Ancient Text)
P. Arthashastra
Q. Indica
R. Milindapanha
S. Hathigumpha Inscription
List II: (Associated Person/Subject)
1. Menander and Nagasena
2. Kharavela's reign
3. Mauryan administration by Kautilya
4. Mauryan society by Megasthenes
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

**191.** Which element of the Saptanga theory is considered the 'nerve center' of administration?
(A) Amatya
(B) Janapada
(C) Kosha
(D) Danda

**192.** Ashoka's title "Devanampiya" often found in his inscriptions means:
(A) King by divine right
(B) Beloved of the Gods
(C) The fortunate one
(D) Conqueror of the world

**193.** The superintendents in charge of Mauryan economic departments were called:

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# ANSWERS

1. (B) Dandaniti
Dandaniti refers to the science of government or polity in Kautilya's Arthashastra. It encompasses the art of statecraft, the administration of justice, and the maintenance of law and order through the use of force or punishment. This discipline was essential for a ruler to ensure the prosperity and security of the kingdom and its subjects within ancient political structures.

2. (A) Svamin (The Ruler)
Svamin represents the king or sovereign as the head of the state in the Saptanga theory. As the most vital limb of the seven elements of governance, the ruler is responsible for the overall administration and protection of the realm. This concept emphasizes the monarch's central role in maintaining the integrity and functioning of the entire political and social system.

3. (B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
Ancient texts provide conflicting accounts of Chandragupta Maurya's lineage rather than a clear consensus. While Brahmanical traditions often describe him as being of humble or Shudra origin, Buddhist and Jain sources frequently attribute a Kshatriya ancestry to him. This discrepancy highlights the diverse perspectives found within various historical and religious traditions regarding the founder of the powerful and unified Mauryan empire.

4. (D) Conquest by righteousness and moral persuasion.
Dharma vijaya represents the concept of conquest through righteousness and moral persuasion rather than military force. Following the Kalinga War, Ashoka abandoned aggressive expansion in favor of spreading ethical conduct and social harmony. This policy aimed to win the hearts of people across different regions by promoting non-violence, mutual respect, and the welfare of all living beings through Dhamma.

5. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Kautilya's Saptanga theory identifies seven essential elements of the state. In this framework, Amatya signifies the minister or high-ranking officials, while Janapada represents the territory and its people. Kosha refers to the royal treasury necessary for administration, and Mitra denotes the allies or friends who provide external support. These components collectively form the organic and functional structure of a stable kingdom.

6. (B) A central hall for congregational worship.
Buddhist stupas are primarily reliquary monuments rather than congregational prayer halls. While they feature a hemispherical dome called the Anda, a square railing known as the Harmika, and a circular walking path called the Pradakshina patha, they lack internal spaces for large gatherings. Congregational worship typically occurred in Chaityas, which were specifically designed as prayer halls with a stupa placed inside.

7. (D) A regular tax on agricultural produce.
Kara signifies a regular tax levied on agricultural produce during the Mauryan period. It was one of several duties imposed by the state to generate revenue for administrative and military expenses. Unlike voluntary offerings or forced labor, this tax represented a systematic collection from the peasantry, reflecting the highly organized and centralized nature of the Mauryan fiscal and economic administrative system.

8. (A) Village administration was independent of central control.
Mauryan administration was highly centralized, and village governance was not independent of the state's oversight. While local officials like the Gramika managed day-to-day affairs, they remained part of a larger bureaucratic hierarchy that reported to district and provincial authorities. The empire was systematically divided into provinces and subdivisions, with a council of thirty members specifically managing the capital city's affairs.

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**62.** (D) Aryabhata
Aryabhata, the renowned ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer, is credited with providing a scientific explanation for the causes of solar and lunar eclipses. He correctly identified that eclipses are caused by the shadows cast by the earth and the moon rather than by mythological beings. His work, the 'Aryabhatiya', laid the foundation for many astronomical concepts, including the rotation of the earth on its own axis.

**63.** (A) Charaka Samhita
The Charaka Samhita is a comprehensive ancient Indian treatise on medicine and is one of the foundational texts of Ayurveda. It deals extensively with various aspects of internal medicine, including the diagnosis of diseases, pathology, and therapeutic treatments. Attributed to the physician Charaka, the text emphasizes a holistic approach to health, focusing on the balance of the body's three humors or 'doshas' for overall well-being.

**64.** (B) Metallurgy
The Iron Pillar of Delhi, located in the Qutub Minar complex, is an extraordinary example of the advanced knowledge of metallurgy in ancient India. Despite being exposed to the elements for over sixteen hundred years, the pillar remains remarkably resistant to rust and corrosion. Its composition and the sophisticated manufacturing techniques used to create it demonstrate the high level of technical skill achieved by ancient Indian metalworkers.

**65.** (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Ancient Indian history is marked by the contributions of several notable scholars across diverse fields. Aryabhata excelled in astronomy and mathematics, while Sushruta is recognized for his pioneering work in surgery. Varahamihira authored encyclopedic works on astronomy and various other sciences. Kautilya is famously associated with statecraft and administrative philosophy through the Arthashastra, providing a comprehensive framework for the governance and economic management of a kingdom.

**66.** (A) Mathematics
The development of the decimal place-value system and the revolutionary concept of zero are two of ancient India's most significant contributions to the field of mathematics. These innovations simplified complex calculations and provided the foundation for modern arithmetic and algebra. The use of zero as both a placeholder and a numerical value allowed for more sophisticated mathematical modeling, which eventually spread to the rest of the world.

**67.** (C) Praja (Subjects' welfare)
While the welfare of the subjects was a primary goal of Mauryan governance, Praja is not listed as one of the seven formal limbs in Kautilya's Saptanga theory. The theory specifically identifies the king, ministers, territory, fortified capital, treasury, army, and allies as the essential components of a state. These seven elements represent the organizational structure required to manage a kingdom effectively and ensure its continued survival and prosperity.

**68.** (D) He who is beloved of the gods.
The title "Priyadarshi," frequently used alongside "Devanampiya" in Ashokan inscriptions, translates to "one who looks with kindness" or "he who is beloved of the gods." This epithet reflects the emperor's self-conception as a benevolent ruler dedicated to the moral and physical welfare of his subjects. Its widespread use in his edicts served to humanize the monarchy and emphasize the ethical basis of his imperial authority.

**69.** (A) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is incorrect.
In the Mauryan administrative system, provincial heads were typically members of the royal family, often referred to as Kumars or princes. This practice ensured that the king's closest relatives held key positions of power across the empire. However, these provincial governors were not entirely independent, as the central government maintained significant control through a network of reporters and central oversight to ensure loyalty and efficient administration.

**70.** (B) Gramika
The village served as the smallest administrative unit in the Mauryan Empire and was headed by an official known as the Gramika. This official was responsible for managing local affairs, resolving disputes, and coordinating with higher levels of administration. While the Gramika

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**18.** (A) Devanagari
Ashoka's inscriptions were written in several ancient scripts, including Brahmi, Kharosthi, Aramaic, and Greek, depending on the region. Devanagari, however, had not yet evolved during the Mauryan period and was therefore not used for these royal edicts. The variety of scripts employed highlights the linguistic diversity of the empire and the ruler's efforts to communicate effectively with all his subjects.

**19.** (C) Major Rock Edict XIII
Major Rock Edict XIII provides the most comprehensive and detailed account of the Kalinga War and its aftermath. In this inscription, Ashoka expresses deep remorse for the death and destruction caused by the conflict. It explains his subsequent decision to abandon military warfare in favor of Dhamma, making it a critical source for understanding the emperor's profound personal and political transformation.

**20.** (A) 2, 3, 1, 4
The chronological sequence of these Mauryan rulers begins with Chandragupta Maurya, who founded the empire. He was succeeded by his son Bindusara, who expanded the realm further. Ashoka, the son of Bindusara, later brought the empire to its cultural and territorial peak. Finally, Brihadratha served as the last ruler of the dynasty before it was overthrown by the Shunga family.

**21.** (C) To spread and supervise Dhamma.
Dhamma Mahamattas were a special class of officials appointed by Ashoka to promote and supervise the practice of Dhamma throughout his empire. Their duties included educating the public on ethical conduct, ensuring the welfare of various social groups, and preventing religious persecution. By creating this specific administrative role, Ashoka institutionalized his commitment to moral governance and the spiritual well-being of his subjects.

**22.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Mauryan period was marked by significant advancements in urban development and public works. The widespread use of burnt bricks improved the durability of architectural structures compared to earlier wooden constructions. Additionally, the introduction of ring wells facilitated better sanitation and reliable water supply in urban centers. These technological innovations reflect the increased sophistication of infrastructure and public health management during this era.

**23.** (D) Pillar Edict of Ashoka
The famous lion capital at Sarnath was originally the crowning element of a monolithic pillar edict erected by Ashoka. This masterpiece of Mauryan sculpture features four lions standing back-to-back, symbolizing the spread of the Buddha's teachings in all directions. Its exceptional craftsmanship and symbolic power led to its adoption as the National Emblem of India, representing the country's rich historical legacy.

**24.** (A) Forcibly converting people to his new faith.
Ashoka utilized various peaceful methods to propagate Dhamma, but he did not resort to forced conversions. He appointed special officers, engraved moral principles on rocks and pillars, and sent diplomatic missions to foreign lands to share his ethical vision. His approach was rooted in moral persuasion and religious tolerance, encouraging subjects to follow righteousness while respecting their own traditions and individual beliefs.

**25.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Kautilya's Arthashastra is recognized as a comprehensive manual for statecraft because it details the complex administrative and political structures required for a stable kingdom. By discussing the Saptanga theory and the specific duties of government officials, the text provides a practical blueprint for effective governance. This systematic approach explains why the work remains a foundational source for understanding ancient Indian political science.

**26.** (A) An organization of craftsmen or merchants.
In the Mauryan period, a Shreni or guild functioned as an organization of craftsmen or merchants specializing in a particular trade. These bodies played a vital role in the economy by regulating production, ensuring quality, and providing financial services like banking. Guilds also offered social security to their members and exerted considerable influence over urban administration and the overall commercial life of the state.

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the specific task of ensuring justice and the welfare of the people. By having Rajukas tour the empire, Ashoka aimed to maintain a more direct and humane connection between the central authority and the common population.

**79.** (A) High expenditure on army and bureaucracy.
A plausible economic reason for the downfall of the Mauryan Empire was the immense financial burden of maintaining a vast standing army and an extensive bureaucracy. The centralized nature of the state required constant funding, which became difficult to sustain under weaker successors. High expenditures, coupled with potential declines in agricultural productivity and trade revenue, may have led to a fiscal crisis that weakened the central government's authority over its distant provinces.

**80.** (B) Defense of the Ganga valley against Greeks.
A major achievement of Pushyamitra Shunga's rule was his successful defense of the Ganga valley against invasions by the Indo-Greeks. His military leadership prevented these foreign powers from expanding further into the heartland of North India, thereby maintaining the territorial integrity of the region following the collapse of Mauryan authority. This defense was crucial in preserving the cultural and political independence of the Magadha region during a period of significant external pressure.

**81.** (B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
The major kingdoms of the Sangam age were identified by specific royal emblems. The Cheras used the bow and arrow, reflecting their martial traditions, while the Cholas adopted the tiger to symbolize power. The Pandyas were identified by the fish, representing their maritime connections. In contrast, the Mauryan state is often associated with the Dharmachakra, signifying the emperor's commitment to the spread of righteous conduct and the cosmic law.

**82.** (A) The Deccan region, encompassing modern Maharashtra.
The Satavahana kingdom was primarily situated in the Deccan region of Central India, covering much of modern-day Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Based at their capital, Pratishthana, they emerged as a significant power following the decline of the Mauryan Empire. Their strategic location allowed them to control the trade routes between Northern and Southern India, serving as a vital cultural and political link between the two regions for several centuries.

**83.** (C) Rock-cut Chaityas, Viharas, and stupas.
The Satavahana era made distinctive contributions to Indian architecture through the creation of elaborate rock-cut Chaityas and Viharas. Significant sites like Karle, Bhaja, and Kanheri feature impressive prayer halls and residential quarters for monks carved directly into the western Ghats. Additionally, the dynasty patronized the construction and embellishment of grand stupas, such as the one at Amaravati, which are celebrated for their sophisticated relief sculptures and artistic detailing.

**84.** (D) Invading deep into the Gangetic valley.
The Indo-Greek king Demetrius is noted for his ambitious military campaigns that led him deep into the Gangetic valley of Northern India. His invasions occurred during the period of Mauryan decline, allowing the Greeks to establish a presence in the heartland of the subcontinent. These military activities initiated a period of significant cultural and political interaction between the Hellenistic world and ancient Indian society, influencing various aspects of art and administration.

**85.** (A) 1 and 3 only
The Shakas established multiple branches of rule across India, known as Khatrapas, with their most famous ruler being Rudradaman I. While they faced constant conflict with the Satavahanas, they were not completely expelled and continued to rule in various regions for several centuries. Their history is characterized by a mix of conflict and cultural integration, as they eventually adopted Indian languages and religions while maintaining their distinct political structure.

**86.** (B) A system with rulers known as Satraps.
Kanishka's administrative system was modeled on the Persian and Hellenistic tradition of using provincial governors known as Satraps. This decentralized approach allowed for the effective management of a vast and diverse empire that spanned from Central Asia to Northern India. Under this system, local rulers maintained significant authority while remaining loyal to

**36.** (D) Gautamiputra Satakarni
Gautamiputra Satakarni is celebrated as the greatest Satavahana ruler, famously defeating the Shaka ruler Nahapana to restore his dynasty's prestige. His achievements and military victories are extensively praised in the Nasik inscription issued by his mother, Gautami Balasri. He is credited with reviving Satavahana power and expanding the kingdom's influence across central India by curbing the expansion of various foreign invaders.

**37.** (C) Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda
The art and architecture of the Satavahana period reached its zenith in the sculptures and structures found at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda. These sites are famous for their magnificent stupas and intricate relief carvings that depict various Jataka stories and scenes from the Buddha's life. The distinctive style developed in these regions features dynamic movement and sophisticated detailing, influencing the subsequent development of South Indian art.

**38.** (B) Gondophares
Gondophares was the most prominent king of the Pahlavas, or Indo-Parthians, ruling over northwestern India during the first century CE. According to Christian tradition, he was visited and converted by St. Thomas the Apostle, marking an early connection between India and Christianity. His reign is also documented through inscriptions like the Takht-i-Bahi, which provides historical evidence of his rule and territorial extent.

**39.** (D) The Greek rulers of the region of Bactria.
The term "Bactrians" refers to the Greek rulers who governed the region of Bactria, located in modern-day Afghanistan and Central Asia. Following the fragmentation of Alexander the Great's empire, these Indo-Greeks expanded into northwestern India. They are historically significant for introducing Hellenistic cultural elements and for being the first rulers in the Indian subcontinent to issue sophisticated coins featuring portraits of their kings.

**40.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The post-Mauryan period experienced widespread political fragmentation as the centralized authority of Pataliputra collapsed. This power vacuum allowed numerous local indigenous dynasties and foreign groups, such as the Indo-Greeks and Shakas, to establish their own independent kingdoms. The rise of these various powers was a direct consequence of the lack of a strong central administration capable of maintaining a unified empire.

**41.** (C) Menander
Menander, an Indo-Greek king, is famously known for his philosophical dialogues with the Buddhist monk Nagasena. These conversations are recorded in the Pali text 'Milindapanha', or 'The Questions of King Milinda'. His interest in Buddhism and eventual patronage of the faith made him a legendary figure in Buddhist tradition, representing a unique synthesis of Greek intellectual curiosity and Indian spiritual philosophy.

**42.** (A) Introduction of Hellenistic art features.
A significant cultural contribution of the Indo-Greeks was the introduction of Hellenistic art features to the Indian subcontinent. This influence led to the development of the Gandhara school of art, which combined Greek artistic styles with Indian Buddhist themes. Their presence also revolutionized Indian numismatics by introducing standardized, high-quality coins with portraits and inscriptions, providing a model for later dynasties like the Kushans and Guptas.

**43.** (D) Scythians
The Shakas, who entered the Indian subcontinent after the Indo-Greeks, were nomadic tribes originally from Central Asia known as Scythians. They established several branches of rule across northern and western India, known as Khatrapas. Their migration was driven by pressures from other Central Asian groups, leading them to settle in regions like Gandhara, Mathura, and Saurashtra, where they eventually adopted many local Indian traditions.

**44.** (B) Rudradaman I
Rudradaman I was a powerful Shaka ruler of the Western Khatrapa dynasty who governed the Saurashtra and Malwa regions. He is particularly renowned for the Junagadh rock inscription, which is the first major royal inscription written in chaste Sanskrit. This record details his military

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victories, his administrative skills, and his role in repairing the Sudarshana Lake, showcasing his efforts to integrate into Indian cultural norms.

**45.** (C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The Shakas established different administrative centers throughout northern and western India. Maues was a prominent early ruler of the Shakas in Taxila, while Rajuvula governed the Mathura region. In the west, Nahapana was the most famous leader of the Kshaharata family in Maharashtra, and Rudradaman I represented the powerful Kardamaka family that ruled over Saurashtra and Malwa from their base in Ujjain.

**46.** (D) Kujula Kadphises
Kujula Kadphises was the founder of the Kushan dynasty, uniting the five tribes of the Yueh-chi in Central Asia. He expanded his territory into the Kabul valley and parts of northwestern India, laying the groundwork for a vast empire. His reign marked the transition of the Kushans from a nomadic group to a settled political power, initiating a dynasty that would dominate Central and South Asia.

**47.** (A) Kanishka I
Kanishka I was the most powerful and celebrated ruler of the Kushan dynasty, known for his vast military conquests and his patronage of Buddhism. His empire stretched from Central Asia to the Gangetic plains, and he is famously associated with the convening of the Fourth Buddhist Council. Under his rule, the empire became a major center of trade, culture, and religious exchange, influencing much of Asia.

**48.** (B) The Silk Road with the Indian seaports.
Kanishka's empire was strategically located to control the major trade routes of the ancient world. By encompassing parts of Central Asia and Northern India, the Kushans successfully connected the Silk Road, which linked China and the West, with the thriving Indian seaports. This position allowed the empire to prosper from international trade, facilitating the flow of goods, ideas, and religions across diverse cultural regions.

**49.** (B) Kanishka
The Fourth Buddhist Council was convened under the patronage of the Kushan emperor Kanishka in Kashmir. This assembly was significant as it resulted in the codification of the Sarvastivadin doctrines and marked the rise of Mahayana Buddhism. The council brought together hundreds of scholars to compile extensive commentaries on the Buddhist scriptures, ensuring the preservation and systematic spread of the faith across Central and East Asia.

**50.** (A) The Kushans were staunch patrons of Jainism and suppressed Buddhism.
The statement that Kushans suppressed Buddhism is incorrect; in fact, they were among its most significant patrons. Emperor Kanishka famously supported the faith and organized the Fourth Buddhist Council. While the Kushans issued gold coins and supported diverse artistic schools like Gandhara and Mathura, they generally exhibited a policy of religious tolerance rather than the systematic suppression of any major Indian faith like Buddhism.

**51.** (C) Indian themes and Greek/Roman style.
The Gandhara school of art is characterized by a unique fusion of Indian Buddhist themes and Greco-Roman artistic styles. This school frequently depicted the Buddha in anthropomorphic form, often with features resembling Greek deities like Apollo, such as wavy hair and draped garments. Thriving in the northwestern frontier under Kushan patronage, it represents a remarkable cultural synthesis resulting from centuries of contact between India and the Hellenistic world.

**52.** (D) Kharavela
Kharavela was the most prominent ruler of the Chedi dynasty of Kalinga, and his reign is primarily known through the Hathigumpha inscription. This record, located in the Udayagiri Hills, provides a detailed biographical account of his military campaigns and public works. Kharavela is celebrated for restoring the power and prestige of Kalinga, successfully challenging neighboring kingdoms and asserting his authority as a powerful and independent sovereign.

**53.** (C) Jainism
According to the Hathigumpha inscription, Kharavela was a devout follower and patron of Jainism. The record details his efforts to support the Jain monastic community, including

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the construction of caves for monks and the performance of religious rituals. His patronage is significant as it demonstrates the continued influence of Jainism in eastern India during the post-Mauryan period, parallel to the state support given to other faiths elsewhere.

**54.** (B) Pandyas
In the Sangam age, the far south of the Indian subcontinent was dominated by three major Tamil kingdoms: the Cholas, the Cheras, and the Pandyas. Known collectively as the Muventar, these dynasties were celebrated in Sangam literature for their military prowess, patronage of poets, and involvement in extensive maritime trade. Each kingdom controlled a distinct geographical region and maintained its own unique emblems and administrative traditions.

**55.** (C) 2 and 3 only
Sangam literature is composed in Old Tamil rather than Sanskrit and provides essential insights into the social, political, and economic life of ancient South India. The term 'Sangam' refers to the assemblies of poets that were held under the patronage of the Pandya kings in Madurai. These literary works offer a vivid portrayal of the heroic culture, diverse landscapes, and vibrant trade links of the region.

**56.** (A) Tiger
During the Sangam age, the tiger served as the official royal emblem of the Chola kingdom. This symbol was prominently displayed on their flags and coins to represent the power and ferocity of the dynasty. Each of the three major southern kingdoms had a specific emblem; while the Cholas used the tiger, the Pandyas were identified by the fish, and the Cheras adopted the bow and arrow.

**57.** (C) Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu
The Chera kingdom of the Sangam age primarily controlled the territory of modern-day Kerala and parts of western Tamil Nadu. Their strategic location along the western coast allowed them to dominate the lucrative spice trade with the Roman Empire through ports like Muziris. The Cheras were known for their maritime strength and their capital at Vanji, playing a crucial role in the economic and cultural life of South India.

**58.** (A) Madurai
Madurai served as the capital of the Pandya kingdom and was a renowned center of trade and culture in ancient South India. It was famous for hosting the Sangam assemblies, where poets and scholars gathered under royal patronage to produce a vast body of Tamil literature. The city's wealth and importance were bolstered by its proximity to pearl fisheries and its active participation in international maritime commerce.

**59.** (D) An assembly of poets.
In the context of ancient South Indian history, the term 'Sangam' literally means an assembly or academy. Specifically, it refers to the gatherings of Tamil poets and scholars that took place under the patronage of the Pandya kings. These assemblies were responsible for the creation and compilation of the earliest body of Tamil literature, which serves as a foundational source for understanding the culture and history of the region.

**60.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The economy of the Sangam age was highly vibrant, characterized by extensive maritime trade links with the Roman Empire. This historical reality is supported by significant archaeological evidence, including the discovery of numerous hoards of Roman gold and silver coins throughout South India. This trade was driven by the high demand for Indian spices, textiles, and precious stones, which brought immense wealth to the southern kingdoms.

**61.** (C) The historical cultural influence of India on other regions.
The concept of 'Greater India' refers to the historical expansion and influence of Indian culture, religion, language, and art beyond the Indian subcontinent. This cultural diffusion occurred primarily through trade and maritime missions, impacting regions such as Southeast Asia and Central Asia. It signifies a period when Indian ideas, including Hinduism and Buddhism, deeply integrated into the social and political fabric of various foreign societies through peaceful cultural exchange.

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**27.** (D) The age is marked by stone sculpture and rock-cut architecture.
The Mauryan age is historically significant for its widespread introduction and mastery of stone sculpture and rock-cut architecture. Artistic achievements such as monolithic pillars and the caves at Barabar demonstrate advanced technical skill and state patronage. This shift from wood to stone allowed for more permanent monuments, establishing a lasting legacy that profoundly influenced the development of subsequent Indian art and architecture.

**28.** (B) James Prinsep
James Prinsep, an official of the Calcutta Mint and secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, successfully deciphered the Brahmi script in 1837. His work enabled the reading of Ashoka's inscriptions, which revealed the historical details of the emperor's reign and his policy of Dhamma. This breakthrough was a landmark event in Indian historiography, as it provided direct access to primary Mauryan records.

**29.** (C) From right to left.
The Kharosthi script was traditionally written from right to left, distinguishing it from the Brahmi script used in other parts of the empire. Prevalent in the northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent, it was used for Ashoka's inscriptions in areas like modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan. Its usage highlights the cultural and linguistic links between India and Central Asia during the Mauryan period.

**30.** (D) Policy of non-violence which weakened the army.
One prominent theory regarding the decline of the Mauryan Empire suggests that Ashoka's emphasis on non-violence and pacifism potentially weakened the military's preparedness. Following his adoption of Dhamma, the focus shifted from expansion to moral governance, which some historians believe made the empire vulnerable to external invasions. This shift in policy may have diminished the central authority's ability to maintain control over distant provinces.

**31.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Mauryan administrative divisions were organized into a hierarchy to facilitate efficient governance. The Chakra represented a large province, while the Ahar or Vishaya functioned as a district. The Grama was the smallest unit, representing an individual village. Additionally, the Sangrahana was a collection of approximately ten villages, serving as an intermediate administrative level between the village and the larger district structure.

**32.** (B) Pushyamitra Shunga
Pushyamitra Shunga was the commander-in-chief of the last Mauryan king, Brihadratha, whom he assassinated during a military parade. This act ended the Mauryan dynasty and established the Shunga dynasty in Magadha around 185 BCE. His rise to power marked a significant political shift, as he was a general who asserted authority during a period of declining Mauryan influence and central control.

**33.** (B) He is associated with a Brahmanical revival.
Pushyamitra Shunga's reign is primarily noted for a significant Brahmanical revival following the Mauryan period. As a ruler of Brahmin background, he promoted Vedic sacrifices, such as the Ashvamedha, which had been less prominent under later Mauryan emperors. His period is often viewed as a reaction against the state patronage previously granted to heterodox sects like Buddhism and Jainism during Ashoka's time.

**34.** (A) Vasudeva Kanva
Vasudeva Kanva founded the Kanva dynasty after overthrowing the last Shunga ruler, Devabhuti. Much like the transition from the Mauryas to the Shungas, this change in power occurred through the assassination of the sovereign by a high-ranking minister. The Kanva dynasty was relatively short-lived and maintained control over the Magadha region until they were eventually displaced by rising powers like the Satavahanas.

**35.** (A) 1 and 2 only
The Satavahana dynasty is commonly identified with the Andhras mentioned in the Puranas and ruled a vast territory in the Deccan. Their kings frequently used metronymics, which are names derived from the mother, such as Gautamiputra Satakarni. However, they were primarily based in the Deccan region of Central India rather than the Tamil country of the far south, which was controlled by others.

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oversaw the village, he was often assisted by a council of elders, reflecting a blend of central authority and local community participation in everyday governance.

**71.** (D) Greek and Aramaic
In the extreme northwestern parts of his empire, such as modern-day Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ashoka used Greek and Aramaic for his inscriptions. This choice was deliberate, as these were the primary languages and scripts of the local populations in those frontier regions. The use of multiple languages demonstrates Ashoka's pragmatic approach to governance and his commitment to making his policy of Dhamma accessible to all his diverse subjects.

**72.** (A) Personal transformation and adoption of Dhamma.
The most significant consequence of the Kalinga War for Ashoka was his profound personal transformation and the subsequent adoption of Dhamma. Witnessing the immense suffering and loss of life during the conflict led him to renounce military expansion. He transitioned from a policy of physical conquest to one of moral conquest, focusing on spreading ethical conduct, social harmony, and the welfare of all living beings throughout his vast empire.

**73.** (C) Ajivikas
The Barabar cave inscriptions in Bihar provide clear evidence of Ashoka's patronage towards the Ajivika sect. Despite his own personal commitment to Buddhism, Ashoka dedicated these rock-cut caves to Ajivika ascetics, demonstrating his broader policy of religious tolerance. This act of patronage highlights the emperor's effort to support various religious communities and ensure that all sects could coexist peacefully under his benevolent and inclusive rule.

**74.** (A) A society divided into seven classes based on occupation.
Megasthenes, in his work Indica, described Mauryan society as being divided into seven distinct classes based on their occupations, including philosophers, farmers, soldiers, and artisans. This observation suggests that foreign observers perceived a social structure defined more by professional roles than the traditional four-fold varna system. While his account might have simplified complex social realities, it indicates a highly organized society with specialized groups contributing to the state's functioning.

**75.** (A) 3, 1, 2
Following the decline of the Mauryan Empire, the northwestern frontier of India witnessed a series of foreign invasions. The Indo-Greeks were the first to establish themselves, bringing Hellenistic influences to the region. They were followed by the Shakas, or Scythians, who expanded further into western and central India. Finally, the Kushans arrived, eventually building a vast empire that connected South Asia with the major trade routes of Central Asia.

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**76.** (B) A state-controlled economy where agriculture was primary.
Economic life during the Mauryan period was characterized by significant state control over various sectors, with agriculture remaining the primary source of revenue. The government managed irrigation, regulated trade through guilds, and maintained a monopoly on key industries like mining and metallurgy. This centralized economic management, as described in the Arthashastra, allowed the state to fund its extensive bureaucracy and military while ensuring the stability of the imperial treasury.

**77.** (C) The Bhakti movement focused on Vishnu and Shiva.
During the Mauryan period, religious life was diverse, featuring Brahmanism, Buddhism, Jainism, and the worship of local deities like Yakshas. However, the Bhakti movement, characterized by intense personal devotion to specific gods like Vishnu or Shiva, did not become a prominent religious feature until much later. The Mauryan era was instead marked by the dominance of ritualistic Vedic traditions and the rise of heterodox sects that challenged established religious norms.

**78.** (D) Rajukas
Ashoka introduced a class of officials known as Rajukas to improve provincial administration and address the grievances of his subjects. These officers were granted significant authority in judicial matters and land measurement, with

**9.** (C) Forced labor
Vishti refers to the practice of forced labor extracted by the state from the common people during the Mauryan era. This form of labor was considered a type of tax paid in service rather than currency or produce. The central government utilized such labor for public works, construction projects, and military needs, demonstrating the extensive control the state exercised over human resources.

**10.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Battle of Kalinga served as a profound turning point for Ashoka due to the immense suffering and loss of life it caused. This traumatic experience led him to renounce military conquest, known as Digvijaya, in favor of cultural and moral conquest, termed Dharmavijaya. Consequently, his policies shifted toward the promotion of non-violence, ethical governance, and the welfare of his subjects.

**11.** (D) Prayer hall or shrine with a stupa.
A Chaitya primarily served as a prayer hall or shrine containing a stupa within Buddhist and Jain architecture. These structures were designed to facilitate collective worship and meditation for the monastic community and lay followers. Unlike Viharas, which were residential quarters for monks, Chaityas were sacred spaces characterized by their vaulted roofs and apsidal ends, often carved directly into rock faces.

**12.** (B) The liberation of India from Greek control.
Chandragupta Maurya achieved the significant feat of liberating Northwestern India from Greek occupation following the death of Alexander the Great. By defeating Seleucus Nicator, he secured territories and established a vast, unified empire. This victory not only ended foreign rule in the region but also laid the foundation for a centralized administration that would dominate the Indian subcontinent for several generations.

**13.** (C) Amatya - Village Headman
Amatya refers to high-ranking civil servants or ministers in the Mauryan administration rather than the village headman. The village headman was typically known as the Gramika. In contrast, officials like the Sannidhata served as the chief treasury officer, while the Samaharta acted as the collector general of revenue. Adhyakshas were superintendents overseeing various specialized departments of the state's complex economic bureaucracy.

**14.** (D) Shravanabelagola
According to Jain tradition, Chandragupta Maurya abdicated his throne and traveled to Shravanabelagola in modern-day Karnataka during his final days. Under the guidance of the Jain monk Bhadrabahu, he practiced Sallekhana, a ritual of fasting unto death. This act of renunciation signifies his deep commitment to Jainism, marking a spiritual conclusion to the life of the empire's founder and first sovereign.

**15.** (B) 2 only
Ashoka's Dhamma was a broad moral and ethical code intended to promote social harmony and non-violence across his diverse empire. It was not a new religion founded by him, nor was it exclusively based on Buddhist doctrines, as it incorporated universal principles found in many traditions. The policy emphasized religious tolerance and the respectful treatment of all individuals, including servants and monks.

**16.** (B) It served as a dwelling place for monks.
The Vihar served as a permanent residence or monastery for Buddhist and Jain monks. In ancient India, these structures provided living quarters, study areas, and common rooms for practitioners, especially during the rainy season. Unlike Chaityas, which were specifically dedicated to prayer and worship, Vihars were functional living spaces that facilitated the communal and ascetic lifestyles of the monastic orders.

**17.** (B) Indica by Megasthenes
The city administration of Pataliputra is famously described in the Indica, a work by the Greek ambassador Megasthenes. He served at the court of Chandragupta Maurya and documented various aspects of Indian life, including the elaborate system of municipal boards that governed the capital. His detailed observations provide one of the few contemporary outsider accounts of the complex Mauryan administrative structure.

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the Kushan emperor, facilitating the stability and commercial prosperity of the empire through a network of regional administrators.

**87.** (D) Mathura School
The Mathura school of art, patronized by the Kushans, is famous for creating the earliest anthropomorphic images of the Buddha in an indigenous Indian style. Using locally available spotted red sandstone, artists in Mathura developed a distinct aesthetic that emphasized physical strength and vitality. This school also produced images of various Brahmanical and Jain deities, reflecting the city's importance as a vibrant center of diverse religious and artistic traditions.

**88.** (A) A literary and social classification
The classification of Sangam literature into 'agam' and 'puram' reflects a fundamental literary and social framework of ancient Tamil culture. 'Agam' poems focus on the internal world of love and human emotions, while 'puram' poems deal with the external aspects of life, such as war, heroism, and public deeds. This division provides a comprehensive view of the values and experiences of the Sangam people, balancing personal intimacy with social obligations.

**89.** (C) Spices and precious stones.
A major aspect of the Sangam age economy was the lucrative export of spices, particularly black pepper, and precious stones to the Roman Empire. These items were highly valued in the Mediterranean world, leading to a flourishing maritime trade that brought significant wealth to the southern kingdoms. In exchange, India imported Roman gold, silver, and wine, as evidenced by archaeological finds of Roman coins and amphorae along the South Indian coast.

**90.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Mauryan state utilized an elaborate espionage system to maintain control and ensure the security of the empire. This historical fact is supported by Kautilya's Arthashastra, which provides a detailed description of various types of spies and their specific roles in domestic and foreign intelligence. The text emphasizes that a well-organized network of informants was essential for a ruler to monitor officials, prevent rebellions, and gather critical information about rival states.

**91.** (D) Surgical Procedures
The Sushruta Samhita is an ancient Indian medical text primarily focused on the field of surgery. It describes a wide range of surgical procedures, including plastic surgery, cataract removal, and the treatment of fractures. Attributed to the physician Sushruta, the work emphasizes practical training and the use of specialized instruments. It remains a foundational text in the history of medicine, showcasing the sophisticated surgical knowledge present in ancient India.

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**92.** (B) The art of punishment and maintaining law and order.
The concept of 'Dandaniti' in the Arthashastra refers to the science of governance through the application of the rod or punishment. It highlights the state's role in maintaining law and order and ensuring social stability by deterring criminal behavior. According to Kautilya, the judicious use of authority and the threat of legal consequences are necessary to prevent chaos and protect the weak, thereby ensuring the prosperity of the entire kingdom.

**93.** (C) Kautilya
Kautilya, also known as Chanakya, was the primary mentor and advisor to Chandragupta Maurya. He is traditionally credited with masterminding the strategy that led to the overthrow of the Nanda dynasty and the establishment of the Mauryan Empire. His political philosophy and administrative guidelines, recorded in the Arthashastra, provided the foundation for the centralized governance and economic policies that allowed the empire to flourish and expand across the Indian subcontinent.

**94.** (D) His commander-in-chief
The last Mauryan emperor, Brihadratha, was assassinated by his own commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Shunga, during a military review around 185 BCE. This violent transition marked the end of the Mauryan dynasty and the beginning of the Shunga dynasty in Magadha. The event reflects the internal instability and declining authority of the later Mauryan rulers, as the military leadership eventually asserted control over the state in a period of political crisis.

**95.** (A) He combined executive and judicial functions in the district.
In the Mauryan provincial administration, the Pradesika was a high-ranking official who managed district-level affairs. His role was unique because it combined both executive and judicial functions, allowing him to oversee revenue collection while also presiding over legal disputes. This dual responsibility ensured a centralized and coordinated approach to district governance, helping to maintain order and administrative efficiency in the various territories located far from the imperial capital of Pataliputra.

**96.** (B) The Kandahar inscription
The Kandahar inscription is unique among Ashoka's edicts because it is bilingual, utilizing both Greek and Aramaic. Located in modern-day Afghanistan, this inscription was intended to communicate the emperor's policy of Dhamma to the local Greek and Iranian-speaking populations. Its existence demonstrates Ashoka's pragmatic administrative approach and his commitment to religious tolerance by translating his moral message into the predominant languages of the diverse cultural groups residing within his vast empire.

**97.** (B) Statement I is incorrect, and Statement II is correct.
Ashoka's Dhamma was not identical to the specific religious teachings of the Buddha, although it was influenced by Buddhist ethical principles. Instead, it was conceived as a universal moral code of conduct applicable to all his subjects, regardless of their individual faiths. The policy focused on practical social ethics, such as non-violence, respect for elders, and religious tolerance, aimed at fostering harmony and righteousness within a highly diverse and multicultural imperial society.

**98.** (A) Mauryan stone pillars and sculptures
The high-quality, glass-like finish known as "Mauryan polish" is a distinctive characteristic of the stone pillars and sculptures produced during the Mauryan period. This sophisticated technique gave sandstone surfaces a remarkable shine and smoothness that has survived for over two thousand years. The polish reflects the exceptional technical skill of Mauryan craftsmen and served to enhance the grandeur and symbolic importance of the imperial monuments erected throughout the vast empire.

**99.** (C) A Brahmin overthrew the last Mauryan king.
The theory of a Brahminical reaction against the Mauryas is supported by the historical fact that the last Mauryan king, Brihadratha, was overthrown by his Brahmin commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Shunga. Some historians argue that the Mauryan state's patronage of heterodox sects like Buddhism and Jainism, along with Ashoka's ban on certain rituals, alienated the orthodox Brahmin community. This shift in power represented a significant political and religious transition in the Magadha region.

**100.** (D) Conflict with foreign rulers and Brahminism.
Gautamiputra Satakarni's claim as the "destroyer of foreign power" highlights his successful military campaigns against invading groups like the Shakas. By defeating Nahapana, he reclaimed territories and restored the prestige of the Satavahana dynasty. Furthermore, his title reflects his role as a champion of traditional Vedic social order, as he sought to curb the influence of foreign cultures while positioning himself as a restorer of Brahmanical values in the Deccan region.

**101.** (C) Large-scale issuance of gold coins.
The Kushan king Vima Kadphises is historically significant for being the first ruler in India to issue a large number of high-quality gold coins. This move facilitated international trade along the Silk Road and established a standardized currency for the vast Kushan Empire. His coinage, which often featured religious symbols and royal portraits, reflects the empire's economic prosperity and its integration into the global commercial networks connecting China, India, and Rome.

**102.** (B) Dhamma (Righteousness)
In the Sangam text Tolkappiyam, literature and social life are primarily classified into 'Akam', dealing with internal emotions and love, and 'Puram', focusing on external activities like war and heroism. 'Dhamma' is not one of these specific literary classifications, as it is a term more commonly associated with the moral policies of North Indian rulers like Ashoka. The Akam-Puram framework remains the fundamental

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basis for organizing the early body of Tamil classical poetry.

**103.** (D) Foreigners from the West.
The term "Yavana" in ancient Indian texts was derived from "Ionian" and originally referred to the Greeks who arrived in the subcontinent. Over time, however, its meaning expanded to encompass various groups of foreigners coming from the West, including Persians and Romans. The term was used to describe people who were culturally and geographically outside the traditional Indian fold, reflecting the long history of interaction between India and the western world through trade and invasion.

**104.** (A) Metallurgy
Metallurgy is the field of knowledge most concerned with the properties, extraction, and processing of metals. In ancient India, this knowledge system reached a high level of sophistication, as demonstrated by the production of rust-resistant iron and high-quality bronze. Metallurgical skills were essential for creating tools, weapons, and coins, as well as artistic masterpieces like the monolithic pillars, contributing significantly to the economic and military strength of various ancient Indian dynasties and states.

**105.** (A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
The Mauryan administration employed various officials with specialized roles to ensure the state's functioning. Rajukas were responsible for land measurement and the administration of justice in rural areas. Yuktas served as subordinate revenue officials assisting higher authorities. Sthanikas acted as district-level tax collectors, while the Gopa was an accountant overseeing a small group of villages. This hierarchical structure facilitated efficient revenue management and judicial control across the empire's diverse territorial divisions.

**106.** (A) The army or coercive power of the state
In the Saptanga theory, 'Danda' refers to the army or the coercive power of the state necessary to maintain internal order and defend against external threats. Kautilya emphasized that a strong and disciplined military is essential for the survival of a kingdom and for the effective implementation of the king's authority. This element represents the state's ability to enforce its laws and protect its subjects through the judicious application of organized physical force.

**107.** (D) Mudrarakshasa of Vishakhadatta
The Mudrarakshasa, a Sanskrit play by Vishakhadatta, provides a narrative account of how Chandragupta Maurya rose to power with the strategic assistance of his mentor, Chanakya. The plot centers on the political maneuvers and espionage used to defeat the Nanda dynasty and secure the throne. Although written several centuries after the events, the work offers valuable insights into the traditional accounts and legends surrounding the foundation of the Mauryan Empire and its administration.

**108.** (B) Making administration humane and ethical.
Ashoka's administrative reforms were primarily designed to make the government more humane and ethically grounded, following his adoption of Dhamma. He appointed new classes of officials, such as the Dhamma Mahamattas and Rajukas, to oversee the welfare of his subjects and ensure impartial justice. These changes aimed to transform the Mauryan state from a purely coercive power into a paternalistic administration focused on the moral and social well-being of all its diverse people.

**109.** (C) A set of personal inscriptions with specific content.
A 'Minor Rock Edict' refers to a specific category of Ashoka's inscriptions that are distinguished from the Major Rock Edicts by their content and timing. These edicts are more personal in nature, often describing Ashoka's own journey toward Buddhism and his initial efforts to spread Dhamma. They were usually the first inscriptions issued by the emperor, providing a critical record of the early development of his ethical policies and his personal commitment to the faith.

**110.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Gandhara and Mathura schools of art represent two distinct yet contemporary artistic traditions that flourished under the Kushans. Gandhara art is characterized by its heavy influence from Hellenistic and Roman styles, particularly in the depiction of the Buddha's features. In contrast, Mathura art was more

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indigenous, drawing on traditional Indian aesthetics and using local red sandstone. The differences in their stylistic origins explain why these two schools are considered separate artistic movements.

**111.** (A) A decline in urban life and commerce.
The decline of guilds, or Shrenis, in the later Mauryan period is often interpreted by historians as a symptom of a broader decline in urban life and commercial activity. Guilds were central to the economic prosperity of cities, and their weakening suggests a disruption in trade networks and specialized production. This economic shift may have contributed to the overall political fragmentation and the eventual collapse of the centralized Mauryan administration during the post-Ashokan era.

**112.** (B) Their rule was short-lived and their territory was limited.
The history of the Kanva dynasty is relatively obscure because their reign was short-lived and their authority was largely confined to the region of Magadha. Following the Shungas, the Kanvas ruled for less than fifty years before they were displaced by other rising powers. The limited duration and geographical extent of their rule mean that fewer inscriptions, coins, and archaeological records have survived compared to more dominant and long-lasting dynasties like the Mauryas.

**113.** (B) The prevalence of a metronymic naming system.
A distinguishing feature of Satavahana society was the widespread use of metronymics, where rulers were identified by names derived from their mothers, such as Gautamiputra or Vashishtiputra. While the succession remained patrilineal, with sons inheriting the throne, the prominent use of these maternal names highlights the high status of women and the importance of queen mothers within the royal family. This practice represents a unique cultural trait of the Deccan-based Satavahana dynasty.

**114.** (A) Nahapana
The term "Shaka Khatrapas of Maharashtra" refers to the Kshaharata dynasty, whose most famous ruler was Nahapana. Ruling during the first and second centuries CE, Nahapana controlled a vast territory in western India, including parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat. His reign was marked by significant commercial prosperity, but he was eventually defeated by the Satavahana king Gautamiputra Satakarni, who reclaimed the territories and issued coins restruck over those of the defeated Shaka ruler.

**115.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Kanishka was a pivotal ruler who is credited with initiating the Shaka Era in 78 CE and was a major patron of Mahayana Buddhism. He maintained a vast empire with dual capitals, including Purushapura as his winter capital and Mathura as another key administrative center. His reign facilitated the spread of Buddhist teachings and the flourishing of art and trade, making it a golden age for cultural exchange between India and Central Asia.

**116.** (D) It provides a detailed year-by-year account.
The Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela is an invaluable historical source because it provides a rare, year-by-year biographical record of his first thirteen years as king. This detailed chronological account documents his military campaigns, public works projects, and religious activities in great detail. Unlike many ancient inscriptions that are purely eulogistic, this record offers a systematic narrative that helps historians reconstruct the political and social history of Kalinga during the post-Mauryan period.

**117.** (C) Pandya
The Pandya kingdom of the Sangam age was famous for its rich pearl fisheries and its legendary capital, Madurai. The kingdom's wealth was largely derived from the international trade in pearls, which were highly sought after by the Roman Empire and other foreign states. Madurai served as a vibrant center for Tamil culture and the primary host of the Sangam literary assemblies, reflecting the kingdom's role as a major economic and intellectual hub in South India.

**118.** (B) Tamil grammar
Tolkappiyam is the oldest surviving work of Tamil literature and serves as a comprehensive treatise on Tamil grammar and poetics. It provides detailed rules for linguistics while also offering insights into the social and cultural

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life of the Sangam age. By classifying human experiences and geographical landscapes, the text established the foundational framework for early Tamil poetry, making it a critical source for understanding the development of South Indian literary and social traditions.

**119.** (D) Charaka
Charaka was a renowned physician in ancient India who authored the 'Charaka Samhita', a foundational text of Ayurveda. His work focuses on internal medicine and provides a systematic classification of diseases and their treatments. Charaka emphasized the importance of diet, hygiene, and a holistic approach to patient care, focusing on balancing the body's internal humors. His contributions profoundly influenced the practice of medicine in India and beyond for several centuries.

**120.** (A) Chaitya - Royal audience hall
The pairing of 'Chaitya' with 'Royal audience hall' is incorrect because a Chaitya was primarily a Buddhist or Jain prayer hall or shrine containing a stupa. In contrast, a Stupa functioned as a reliquary mound, and a Vihar served as a residential monastery for monks. The Saptanga theory is correctly identified as a political concept regarding the seven organs of the state, but Chaityas were exclusively religious structures rather than secular administrative spaces.

**121.** (C) Mantriparishad
The central administration of the Mauryan Empire under Chandragupta was supported by a council of ministers known as the Mantriparishad. This body provided advice to the king on matters of policy, finance, and state security. While the monarch held ultimate authority, the council played a crucial role in managing the complex bureaucracy and ensuring the smooth functioning of the government, reflecting the organized and collaborative nature of Mauryan governance as described in the Arthashastra.

**122.** (A) The Kalinga War
Ashoka's policy of 'Dharma vijaya', or conquest through righteousness, was first articulated after the traumatic events of the Kalinga War. The immense suffering and loss of life witnessed during the conflict led the emperor to experience a profound change of heart. Consequently, he renounced military expansion and dedicated himself to spreading moral values and social harmony, replacing the sound of war drums with the message of ethical conduct and universal compassion.

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**123.** (D) Warning against schisms.
The 'Minor Pillar Edicts' of Ashoka are distinct from his main administrative inscriptions and often focus on specific religious matters. For example, some of these edicts contain stern warnings against schisms or divisions within the Buddhist Sangha. By issuing these decrees, Ashoka aimed to maintain the unity and purity of the monastic community, demonstrating his role as a protector of the faith and his deep concern for the internal stability of the religious institutions.

**124.** (B) Links spanning regions with different scripts.
The presence of both Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts in the Mauryan Empire indicates the vastness and cultural diversity of the realm. Brahmi was used across most of the subcontinent, while Kharosthi was prevalent in the northwest. By employing both scripts for his edicts, Ashoka demonstrated a pragmatic approach to governance, ensuring that his message of Dhamma could reach subjects in regions with distinct linguistic and cultural traditions, thereby fostering unity within a diverse empire.

**125.** (A) 3, 2, 1, 4
The chronological establishment of these dynasties begins with the Mauryas, who unified much of India in the fourth century BCE. Following the decline of the Mauryas, the Shungas came to power in the second century BCE. They were subsequently succeeded by the Kanvas in the first century BCE. Meanwhile, the Satavahanas emerged as a major power in the Deccan, flourishing as the other North Indian dynasties eventually faded from regional prominence.

**126.** (D) Assertion of imperial sovereignty.
Pushyamitra Shunga's performance of the 'Ashvamedha', or horse sacrifice, was a traditional Vedic ritual used to assert imperial sovereignty and legitimate his rule. By performing this sacrifice, he signaled a formal break from the Mauryan period's focus on non-violence and highlighted

including the planting of mango groves and the building of rest houses. This edict provides rare personal information about Ashoka's family and the prominent role of royal women in public acts of charity and Dhamma.

**158.** (D) Shrenis
During the Mauryan period, social and economic life saw the significant rise of occupational groups organized into powerful guilds known as Shrenis. These bodies represented various trades, such as weaving, pottery, and commerce, and played a crucial role in regulating production and ensuring product quality. Guilds often acted as banks, managed their own internal affairs, and exerted considerable influence on urban administration, reflecting the high degree of economic specialization and organization within Mauryan society.

**159.** (A) Puranas, inscriptions, and coins.
The history of the Satavahana dynasty is reconstructed from a variety of sources, including the genealogical accounts found in the Puranas, numerous stone inscriptions, and a large corpus of coins. These records provide details about the reign of different kings, their military achievements, and their religious patronage. Together, these archaeological and literary materials allow historians to map the dynasty's territorial extent and its significant cultural and economic contributions to the Deccan region for several centuries.

**160.** (B) Menander I
Menander I was a renowned Indo-Greek king who ruled over a vast territory from his capital at Sakala, modern-day Sialkot. He is celebrated as a great patron of Buddhism, and his philosophical dialogues with the monk Nagasena are recorded in the 'Milindapanha'. Menander is known for issuing an extensive variety of coins and for expanding Greek influence in Northern India, leaving a lasting legacy in both the political history and religious traditions of the Indian subcontinent.

**161.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Kushans were of Central Asian origin, specifically belonging to the Yueh-chi tribes that had migrated from the borders of China. Upon settling in the Indian subcontinent, they became significant patrons of Indian art and successfully adopted local religions, particularly Buddhism. This blend of foreign origins and deep cultural integration allowed the Kushans to create a syncretic empire that facilitated the exchange of ideas and traditions between India, Central Asia, and the Hellenistic world.

**162.** (A) Sushruta Samhita
An ancient description of rhinoplasty, or nasal reconstruction, is most likely found in the Sushruta Samhita, the foundational text on surgery in ancient India. Attributed to the physician Sushruta, this work details hundreds of surgical procedures and specialized instruments. His innovative techniques for reconstructing damaged noses and ears are considered early examples of plastic surgery, showcasing the advanced anatomical knowledge and practical medical skills that characterized the surgical traditions of ancient Indian medical science.

**163.** (C) Major Rock Edict XIII
The concept of 'Dharma vijaya', or conquest by righteousness, is most elaborately described in Ashoka's Major Rock Edict XIII. In this inscription, the emperor explicitly details his renunciation of military warfare after the Kalinga conflict. He proclaims that the true victory is the victory of Dhamma, achieved through moral persuasion and the welfare of people. This edict serves as a manifesto for his new approach to imperial governance and his commitment to non-violence and social ethics.

**164.** (D) Gopa
In the Mauryan administrative hierarchy, the Gopa was a village-level official responsible for overseeing a small group of about five to ten villages. His duties included maintaining records of the population, land holdings, and livestock, which were essential for accurate revenue assessment. Working under the district-level Sthanika, the Gopa served as a critical link between the local village administration and the central bureaucracy, ensuring the efficient collection of information and taxes at the grassroots level.

**165.** (C) Dynamic sculptures depicting Jatakas.
The art and architecture of the Satavahana period, particularly at sites like Amaravati, are celebrated

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army, and allies. Espionage was instead viewed as a vital functional tool used by the state to protect and manage these seven essential organs, rather than being an organ itself.

**135.** (D) Hindu Kush mountains
Under the leadership of Chandragupta Maurya, the Mauryan Empire expanded westward to reach the natural boundary of the Hindu Kush mountains. This significant expansion was secured following his successful conflict and subsequent treaty with the Greek ruler Seleucus Nicator. By controlling these territories, Chandragupta established a vast and unified empire that included much of modern-day Afghanistan and Pakistan, securing the strategic mountain passes that connected India with the rest of Central Asia.

**136.** (A) Six boards of 5 members each
According to the Greek ambassador Megasthenes, the city administration of Pataliputra was managed by a sophisticated municipal council consisting of thirty members. These members were divided into six boards, each composed of five individuals, responsible for specialized tasks such as industrial arts, foreign visitors, birth and death records, trade, and tax collection. This organized structure highlights the advanced level of urban planning and governance achieved by the Mauryan state at its imperial capital.

**137.** (C) All inscriptions are exclusively about Buddhism.
It is incorrect to state that all of Ashoka's inscriptions are exclusively about Buddhism. While many reflect his personal faith and support for the Sangha, many others focus on broader moral ethics, administrative policies, and religious tolerance. These edicts were intended as a means to communicate directly with his diverse subjects, addressing social harmony and universal righteousness rather than solely promoting the specific religious doctrines or the sectarian interests of a single faith.

**138.** (A) Northern Black Polished Ware
The Mauryan period is archeologically distinguished by the production of a high-quality type of pottery known as Northern Black Polished Ware. This ware is characterized by its exceptionally smooth, glossy surface and deep black color, reflecting advanced kiln control and finishing techniques. Its widespread distribution across the empire serves as a marker of the period's commercial prosperity and the high level of technical skill achieved by ancient Indian ceramic artists during this era.

**139.** (D) Oppression by provincial bureaucrats.
One significant political factor in the decline of the Mauryan Empire was the oppression and corruption of provincial bureaucrats. As the central authority in Pataliputra weakened after Ashoka, governors and local officials often acted with greater autonomy, sometimes exploiting the population. Historical accounts, including some of Ashoka's own edicts, hint at public dissatisfaction with high-handed administration, which likely led to local rebellions and the gradual fragmentation of the empire's vast territorial holdings.

**140.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Satavahana rulers practiced a policy of religious pluralism, actively patronizing both Brahmanism and Buddhism. While the kings themselves often performed traditional Vedic sacrifices to legitimate their authority, they also provided significant financial support and land grants for the construction of Buddhist stupas and monasteries. This dual patronage explains why the Satavahana period witnessed the simultaneous flourishing of diverse religious traditions and the creation of major monuments for both faiths.

**141.** (C) Issue coins with portraits of the kings.
The Bactrian Greeks, or Indo-Greeks, were the first rulers in the Indian subcontinent to issue sophisticated coins featuring realistic portraits of their kings. Before their arrival, Indian coinage was primarily punch-marked and lacked personalized imagery. By introducing Hellenistic numismatic traditions, the Indo-Greeks influenced the artistic and administrative practices of subsequent dynasties, such as the Kushans and Guptas, who adopted the use of royal portraits to assert their imperial authority.

**142.** (D) Maues
The "Shakas of Taxila" were established by the ruler Maues, who was the first Shaka king to

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assert control over the northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent around the first century BCE. His reign marked the displacement of Indo-Greek power in the area and initiated the period of Shaka dominance. Maues is known from his coins, which utilize both Greek and Indian scripts, reflecting the cultural synthesis occurring in his newly established northwestern frontier kingdom.

**143.** (A) Vima Kadphises
Before the reign of Kanishka, the Kushan king Vima Kadphises was a devout follower of Shaivism. His coins frequently featured images of Lord Shiva and the bull Nandi, along with the title "Mahishvara," indicating his personal religious devotion to the deity. This patronage demonstrates the Kushan rulers' early adoption of Indian religious traditions and their efforts to integrate themselves into the cultural and spiritual fabric of the diverse populations they governed.

**144.** (B) Muziris
The Chera kingdom of the Sangam Age maintained a flourishing trade in spices, particularly pepper, through the major port city of Muziris. Located on the western coast in modern-day Kerala, Muziris was a key destination for Roman merchant ships seeking valuable Indian commodities. The port served as a vital international commercial hub, facilitating the exchange of Indian spices and precious stones for Roman gold and wine, bringing significant economic prosperity to the Chera region.

**145.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Ancient Indian knowledge systems made groundbreaking contributions in several fields. Aryabhata correctly proposed theories regarding the earth's rotation and provided an accurate calculation of pi. Simultaneously, the Sushruta Samhita documented advanced surgical procedures, including early forms of plastic surgery. However, the decimal system was an indigenous Indian invention rather than a Roman one, significantly influencing the global development of mathematics and the subsequent spread of advanced scientific and numerical concepts worldwide.

**146.** (A) State used forced labor for public works.
Kautilya's Arthashastra mentions 'Vishti' as a source of state income, which implies that the government had the right to extract forced labor from the population for public projects. This labor was used for building fortifications, maintaining irrigation systems, and other essential infrastructure. By institutionalizing forced labor as a legitimate state resource, the Mauryan administration could execute large-scale construction and military operations without relying solely on cash payments or the voluntary contributions of its subjects.

**147.** (C) Inscription mentioning a governor's dam.
Chandragupta Maurya's conquest and administration of western India are evidenced by the Junagadh rock inscription of the later Shaka ruler Rudradaman I. This record mentions that the Sudarshana Lake was originally constructed during Chandragupta's reign by his provincial governor, Pushyagupta. This archaeological evidence confirms that Mauryan authority extended to the Saurashtra region, showcasing the empire's ability to manage large-scale hydraulic engineering projects and maintain administrative control over distant and strategically important western provinces.

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**148.** (D) Taxila and Ujjain
Before his coronation as emperor, Ashoka gained valuable administrative and military experience by serving as the viceroy of Taxila and Ujjain. These appointments allowed him to manage diverse regions, from the sensitive northwestern frontier to the strategically important trade centers of central India. His successful handling of a rebellion in Taxila and his governance in Ujjain demonstrated his capability as a ruler, preparing him for the challenges of managing the entire Mauryan Empire.

**149.** (C) Dhamma and administrative policies.
Ashoka's Major Rock Edicts primarily serve as a medium for communicating his policy of Dhamma and his various administrative reforms to his subjects. These inscriptions detail his efforts to promote non-violence, religious tolerance, and social welfare throughout the empire. They also provide instructions to officials and the public on ethical conduct, reflecting Ashoka's commitment to moral governance and his desire to transform

the Mauryan state into a vehicle for the spiritual well-being of all its people.

**150.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The post-Mauryan period saw the rise of several new dynasties founded by ambitious leaders. Pushyamitra Shunga established the Shunga dynasty, while Vasudeva founded the Kanva dynasty in Magadha. In the Deccan, Simuka initiated the Satavahana dynasty, which would rule for several centuries. Meanwhile, Kujula Kadphises united the Yueh-chi tribes to found the Kushan dynasty, laying the groundwork for a vast empire that would eventually span across Central Asia and much of Northern India.

**151.** (D) Flourishing trade and issuance of coins.
Economic life in the Satavahana kingdom was marked by flourishing trade and the extensive issuance of coins. The dynasty's location in the Deccan allowed it to dominate trade routes between northern and southern India, while also engaging in maritime commerce with the Roman Empire. The use of lead, potin, and silver coins facilitated these economic activities, supporting a vibrant urban culture and the growth of powerful merchant guilds that contributed significantly to the kingdom's prosperity.

**152.** (A) Control of ports and trade routes.
The long-standing conflict between the Western Khatrapas and the Satavahanas was primarily driven by the desire to control strategic ports and lucrative trade routes in western India. Both powers sought to dominate the maritime commerce with the Roman Empire and the inland trade networks connecting the Deccan with the northern plains. This struggle for economic supremacy led to numerous battles and shifted territorial boundaries, as each dynasty fought to secure the wealth generated from these vital commercial assets.

**153.** (C) Ensuring checks and balances.
A distinguishing feature of Kanishka's administration was the dual system of satraps, where two officials of different ranks were appointed to govern a single province. This arrangement was likely intended to ensure a system of checks and balances, preventing any single provincial governor from gaining enough power to challenge the central authority. By dividing administrative responsibilities, the Kushan emperor could maintain better oversight and loyalty within his vast and culturally diverse imperial territories.

**154.** (A) Tamil
The literature of the Sangam Age, which is a crucial source for the history and culture of ancient South India, is primarily composed in the Tamil language. These works represent the earliest form of classical Tamil poetry and were compiled in assemblies of poets patronized by the southern kings. The literature provides a vivid and detailed account of the heroic life, social customs, and vibrant trade links of the early Tamil-speaking people in the southern peninsula.

**155.** (D) Mathematicians
The revolutionary concept of zero as a distinct number and a functional part of the place-value system was a fundamental contribution of ancient Indian mathematicians. This innovation allowed for more complex and efficient calculations, laying the groundwork for the subsequent development of algebra and other advanced mathematical fields. The transmission of this concept to the Islamic world and eventually to Europe profoundly transformed global mathematical knowledge and provided the basis for modern scientific modeling.

**156.** (B) The allied states or friends of the king.
In Kautilya's Saptanga theory, 'Mitra' represents the allies or friends of the king who provide external support and diplomatic stability. A ruler's ability to maintain strong and reliable alliances was considered essential for the security and expansion of the state. These allies could offer military assistance, financial aid, or diplomatic backing during times of conflict, making the network of international relations an integral part of the organic structure of a powerful and successful kingdom.

**157.** (C) The Allahabad-Kosam Pillar Edict
The Allahabad-Kosam Pillar Edict is popularly known as the "Queen's Edict" because it specifically records a religious donation made by Ashoka's second queen, Karuvaki. In this inscription, the emperor instructs officials to credit all her charitable gifts to her account,

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his role as a restorer of Brahmanical traditions. The ritual served as a public demonstration of his military power and his claim to be a paramount ruler over Northern India.

**127.** (A) They facilitated the transmission of culture to the south.
The Satavahanas are often described as a cultural bridge because their rule in the Deccan facilitated the exchange of ideas and traditions between Northern and Southern India. By patronizing both Brahmanical rituals and Buddhist institutions, they helped transmit Indo-Aryan cultural elements, including language and administrative practices, to the southern regions. Their strategic position and extensive trade networks allowed for a unique synthesis of northern and southern influences that shaped the region's history.

**128.** (B) Indo-Greek king who ruled from Taxila.
Eucratides was a prominent Indo-Greek king who established his rule over parts of the northwestern Indian subcontinent, with his primary capital at Taxila. His reign represented a significant branch of Greek power that competed with other Indo-Greek dynasties like that of Menander. He is known for issuing large and sophisticated silver coins, which are among the finest examples of ancient numismatic art and provide historical evidence of his territorial control and influence.

**129.** (B) Chashtana and Rudradaman I
The 'Shak Khatrapas of Saurashtra and Malwa', also known as the Western Khatrapas of the Kardamaka family, are most famously associated with Chashtana and his grandson Rudradaman I. Ruling from Ujjain, this dynasty controlled much of western India for several centuries. Rudradaman I, in particular, is celebrated for his military victories, his administrative wisdom, and his Junagadh inscription, which showcases his deep integration into the cultural life of the Indian subcontinent.

**130.** (A) Eclectic religious and cultural outlook.
Kushan art, which blends Buddhist, Brahmanical, and Zoroastrian figures, demonstrates the eclectic and inclusive religious outlook of the dynasty. Ruling over a vast empire that connected diverse cultural regions, the Kushan emperors patronized various faiths to ensure political stability and social harmony. This cultural syncretism is reflected in their coinage and sculptures, showcasing a unique synthesis of traditions that flourished due to the empire's central role in international trade and cultural exchange.

**131.** (C) Puhar
Puhar, also known as Kaveripattinam, served as the primary port city and a major commercial center for the Chola kingdom during the Sangam period. Located at the mouth of the Kaveri River, it was a bustling hub for maritime trade with foreign lands, including the Roman Empire and Southeast Asia. Sangam literature provides vivid descriptions of the city's wealth, its diverse merchant population, and the vibrant life along its busy docks and marketplaces.

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**132.** (D) Highly stratified with cultural zones.
Sangam literature depicts a society that was highly organized and stratified according to specific eco-zones known as 'tinais'. Each geographical region, such as the hills, forests, or plains, was associated with distinct occupations, social structures, and cultural practices. This system reflects a deep understanding of the relationship between the environment and human society, showing a complex social hierarchy that was deeply rooted in the diverse landscapes of the ancient Tamil country.

**133.** (C) Charaka and Sushruta
Ayurveda, the comprehensive ancient Indian system of medicine, is most closely associated with the pioneering works of Charaka and Sushruta. Charaka's contributions were focused on internal medicine and the holistic balance of bodily humors, while Sushruta is renowned for his advanced knowledge of surgical procedures. Together, their texts form the foundation of classical Indian medical science, emphasizing diet, hygiene, and botanical remedies to achieve and maintain optimal health and overall well-being.

**134.** (B) Not a separate limb of Saptanga.
While the network of spies was a critical component of Mauryan administration as described in the Arthashastra, it is not listed as one of the seven formal limbs of the Saptanga theory. The Saptanga limbs specifically include the king, ministers, territory, capital, treasury,

for their dynamic sculptures depicting various Jataka stories. Unlike the more static styles of earlier periods, Satavahana art features crowded, energetic scenes with figures shown in a wide range of naturalistic poses. These relief carvings provide a vivid portrayal of Buddhist legends and contemporary social life, reflecting the vibrant artistic tradition and sophisticated craftsmanship that flourished in the Deccan under Satavahana patronage.

**166.** (B) Chandragupta Maurya
The Sudarshana Lake, which the Shaka ruler Rudradaman I famously repaired, was originally constructed during the reign of the empire's founder, Chandragupta Maurya. This hydraulic project was managed by his provincial governor, Pushyagupta, to provide irrigation and water supply to the Saurashtra region. The lake's long history, documented in inscriptions, highlights the Mauryan state's commitment to large-scale public works and the continued importance of these infrastructures for subsequent dynasties ruling over western India.

**167.** (D) Mahayana and Hinayana schools.
The Fourth Buddhist Council, held under the patronage of Kanishka, is historically significant for marking the formal emergence and rise of the Mahayana school of Buddhism. This council led to a major doctrinal shift and a subsequent schism from the more traditional Hinayana or Theravada schools. While the assembly aimed to unify various sects, it ultimately highlighted the growing differences in beliefs regarding the nature of the Buddha and the path to spiritual liberation in different regions.

**168.** (A) Murugan
During the Sangam Age, the primary deity worshipped by the people of the Tamil country was Murugan, often referred to as the god of the hills and war. He was deeply integrated into the local culture and landscapes, with numerous poems celebrating his prowess and his connection to the Kurinji region. While other deities from the Brahmanical and Buddhist traditions also had a presence, the indigenous worship of Murugan remained central to the spiritual life of ancient South India.

**169.** (C) Expansion of culture to Southeast Asia.
In a historical context, "Greater India" signifies the significant expansion of Indian cultural, religious, and linguistic influences into Southeast Asia and other neighboring regions. This process occurred through peaceful maritime trade and missionary activities, leading to the adoption of Indian scripts, Hinduism, and Buddhism by various foreign societies. The concept highlights the profound and lasting impact of ancient Indian civilization on the social and political development of regions like Indonesia, Cambodia, and Thailand.

**170.** (A) The development of calculus
While ancient Indian mathematics made extraordinary strides in many areas, the formal development of calculus as a branch of mathematics is not considered one of its ancient contributions. Instead, ancient Indian scholars are celebrated for inventing the concept of zero, developing the decimal place-value system, and providing sophisticated approximations for the value of pi. These foundational achievements significantly advanced global mathematical thought, but calculus was developed much later in both India and Europe during the modern period.

**171.** (D) Nagarika
In the Mauryan administrative system, the Nagarika was the official in charge of city administration and served as the chief of the city police. His responsibilities included maintaining law and order, managing municipal services, and ensuring the security of the urban population. The Nagarika oversaw various specialized departments that handled everything from sanitation to the monitoring of foreign visitors, reflecting the highly organized and sophisticated nature of urban governance in major Mauryan cities like Pataliputra.

**172.** (B) Varna (the caste system)
The Saptanga theory identifies seven specific organs or limbs of the state, including the king, ministers, territory, capital, treasury, army, and allies. While the varna system was a fundamental social institution during the Mauryan period, it is not listed as one of the formal limbs of the political structure of the state. Kautilya's organic model focused on the administrative and

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**188.** (B) Geographical features and social life.
In Sangam terminology, the five eco-zones or 'tinais' were classified based on their specific geographical features and the corresponding social and economic life of their inhabitants. Each zone, such as the mountains, forests, agricultural plains, coastal areas, and arid lands, was associated with distinct deities, occupations, and poetic themes. This classification system reflects a sophisticated understanding of human ecology and the deep connection between the environment and the cultural identity of ancient Tamil society.

**189.** (C) Holistic diet and hygiene approach.
A key aspect of the ancient Indian knowledge system in medical science, particularly within Ayurveda, was its emphasis on a holistic approach involving diet, hygiene, and lifestyle. Rather than focusing solely on treating symptoms, practitioners sought to maintain health by balancing the body's internal humors and aligning the individual with natural cycles. This preventative philosophy, combined with herbal remedies and specialized treatments, formed a comprehensive medical tradition that prioritized overall well-being and a harmonious way of living.

**190.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Ancient Indian history is enriched by several key texts and inscriptions that provide detailed insights into various periods. Kautilya's Arthashastra is a foundational work on Mauryan administration, while Megasthenes' Indica offers a foreign perspective on Mauryan society. The Milindapanha records a significant dialogue between Menander and Nagasena, and the Hathigumpha inscription serves as a primary source for the reign of Kharavela. Together, these documents allow historians to reconstruct the political and social landscapes of ancient India.

**191.** (A) Amatya
In the Saptanga theory of statecraft, the Amatya is considered the 'nerve center' of administration, representing the council of ministers and high-ranking officials. These functionaries were responsible for implementing the king's policies, managing the bureaucracy, and ensuring the efficient operation of various government departments. Kautilya emphasized that a ruler's success depends on the capability and loyalty of his ministers, as they are the essential agents through whom imperial authority is exercised and maintained.

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**192.** (B) Beloved of the Gods
The title "Devanampiya," which appears frequently in Ashoka's stone inscriptions, translates to "Beloved of the Gods." This epithet was commonly used by the emperor to signify his divine favor and his role as a righteous and benevolent ruler. By adopting this title, Ashoka emphasized the ethical and spiritual basis of his imperial authority, positioning himself as a leader whose primary concern was the moral and physical welfare of all his diverse subjects throughout the empire.

**193.** (B) Adhyakshas
In the Mauryan administrative system, the superintendents in charge of various economic departments were known as Adhyakshas. These officials managed specialized sectors such as mining, agriculture, trade, and weights and measures, as described in the Arthashastra. Their role was essential for maintaining state control over the economy and ensuring the steady flow of revenue to the royal treasury. The Adhyakshas formed a critical part of the complex bureaucracy that supported the highly centralized Mauryan state.

**194.** (A) A plurality of faiths across the empire.
Religious life during the Mauryan age was marked by a vibrant plurality of faiths, where Brahmanism, Buddhism, Jainism, and various local cults coexisted. While rulers like Ashoka and Chandragupta personally followed specific heterodox paths, the overall policy of the state was one of tolerance and support for diverse communities. This religious diversity is reflected in the wide variety of monuments and inscriptions from the period, showcasing a society that valued different spiritual traditions and diverse ethical systems.

**195.** (A) 3, 1, 2, 4
The chronological sequence of major events in Ashoka's life begins with his accession to the throne around 269 BCE. Several years into his reign, he undertook the conquest of Kalinga, which resulted in his profound transformation.

reflects multiple perspectives and social realities rather than a single, consistent ideological view or a unified historical narrative.

**181.** (C) Varahamihira
Varahamihira was a distinguished ancient Indian astronomer and mathematician who authored the 'Pancha-siddhantika', a comprehensive summary of five earlier astronomical systems. His work is significant for preserving knowledge of diverse astronomical traditions, including those with Greek and Roman influences. In addition to astronomy, he made major contributions to astrology and wrote encyclopedic texts like the 'Brihat Samhita', showcasing the advanced state of scientific inquiry and multidisciplinary knowledge in ancient India.

**182.** (B) A commemorative monument with relics.
A Stupa fundamentally serves as a commemorative monument built to house the relics of the Buddha or other venerable monks. These hemispherical structures became central symbols of the Buddhist faith, representing the enlightened mind and the cosmic order. Pilgrims would visit stupas to perform circumambulation and pay respect, making them significant spiritual and artistic focal points. Their construction and architectural evolution reflect the spread of Buddhism and the development of sophisticated stone craftsmanship.

**183.** (D) Samaharta
In the Mauryan administrative hierarchy, the Samaharta was the official primarily responsible for the overall collection of revenue and the preparation of the state budget. He oversaw various sources of income, including land taxes, customs duties, and profits from state-run industries. The Samaharta played a crucial role in ensuring the financial stability of the empire, coordinating with local officials to manage the complex fiscal bureaucracy required to fund the state's extensive administrative and military operations.

**184.** (A) It mentions his visit to Lumbini and tax reduction.
The Rummindei Pillar Inscription of Ashoka is of great historical significance because it records the emperor's pilgrimage to Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha. To commemorate this sacred visit, Ashoka declared the village free from certain religious taxes and significantly reduced its land revenue. This inscription provides direct archaeological evidence of Ashoka's personal religious devotion and his practice of granting administrative favors to sites of spiritual importance within his vast and diverse empire.

**185.** (C) Rulers' metronymics and Vedic sacrifices.
The society of the Satavahana period exhibited a unique blend of influences, as evidenced by the rulers' use of metronymics alongside their performance of traditional Vedic sacrifices. While the kings identified themselves through their mothers' names, a practice often associated with indigenous social norms, they also legitimated their imperial authority through Brahmanical rituals like the Ashvamedha. This combination suggests a complex social structure that successfully integrated diverse cultural traditions while maintaining a strong political and religious identity.

**186.** (A) Nagasena
The famous text 'Milindapanha' consists of a detailed philosophical dialogue between the Indo-Greek king Menander, known as Milinda, and the learned Buddhist monk Nagasena. The king poses a series of challenging questions regarding Buddhist doctrines, which the monk answers using clever analogies and profound reasoning. This exchange eventually leads to Menander's conversion to Buddhism, representing a significant intellectual encounter between the Greek rationalist tradition and the spiritual depth of ancient Indian Buddhist thought.

**187.** (D) Spotted red sandstone
The Mathura School of Art predominantly utilized spotted red sandstone, which was locally available in the region, to create its distinctive sculptures. This material gave the artwork a warm, vibrant appearance and allowed for the development of a unique aesthetic style characterized by physical vitality and robust forms. The school produced a wide variety of images, including the earliest indigenous depictions of the Buddha, as well as numerous Brahmanical and Jain deities and secular figures.

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and grievances of his people, ensuring a more responsive and accountable administration.

**218.** (D) Mining and metallurgy
The Mauryan state exercised significant control over the mining and metallurgy industries, which served as a major source of revenue and strategic power. The government maintained a monopoly on the extraction of minerals and the production of metals, ensuring a steady supply of resources for the military and the treasury. This centralized management, overseen by specialized superintendents, allowed the state to fund its extensive administrative apparatus while maintaining its technological superiority in the production of tools, weapons, and coins.

**219.** (C) Kunala
Following the death of Ashoka around 232 BCE, the decline of the Mauryan Empire began, and historical traditions suggest that he was immediately succeeded by his son, Kunala. Although several of Ashoka's successors are mentioned in various texts, their rules were generally short-lived and marked by a loss of central authority over distant provinces. Kunala's reign represents the beginning of a period of political fragmentation and internal struggle that eventually led to the final collapse of the Mauryan dynasty.

**220.** (B) Magadha
After an initial period of expansion and relative strength, the later Shunga rulers became significantly weaker, and their authority was gradually confined to the core region of Magadha. As regional powers in the Deccan and the northwest asserted their independence, the Shunga dynasty's influence over the broader Indian subcontinent diminished. By the end of their era, the Shungas held only a fraction of the vast territories once controlled by the Mauryas, leading to their eventual overthrow by the Kanva family.

**221.** (D) Satavahana
The Gathasaptasati is a celebrated Prakrit text consisting of seven hundred verses on the theme of love and rural life, and it is traditionally attributed to the Satavahana ruler Hala. This work is a significant literary achievement of the Satavahana period, showcasing the flourishing of Prakrit literature and the sophisticated cultural environment of the Deccan region. Hala's patronage and his own reported literary contributions reflect the dynasty's support for local languages and their deep engagement with contemporary poetic traditions.

**222.** (A) Parthians from Iran in the Northwest.
The Pahlavas, or Indo-Parthians, were a group of Iranian origin who established a significant kingdom in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. Following the decline of Indo-Greek power, they ruled over territories in modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan during the first century CE. Their most famous king was Gondophares, and their presence in the region represents one of several foreign dynasties that integrated into the political and cultural landscape of the frontier before the arrival of the Kushans.

**223.** (C) Purushapura
Purushapura, modern-day Peshawar, served as the primary capital of Kanishka's vast Kushan Empire. Its strategic location allowed the emperor to effectively manage his territories in both Central Asia and Northern India, while also controlling key trade routes along the Silk Road. Kanishka embellished the city with magnificent monuments, including a famous giant stupa that was celebrated by contemporary travelers. Purushapura functioned as a major political, commercial, and religious hub for the Kushan state at its territorial peak.

**224.** (A) Puram
In Sangam literature, the poems focusing on war, heroism, and public life are classified as 'Puram'. These works celebrate the martial deeds of kings, the bravery of warriors, and the ethical conduct of public figures, providing a vivid portrayal of the heroic culture of ancient Tamil society. Together with 'Agam', which deals with internal world of love, the Puram genre forms the two-fold foundation of classical Tamil poetry, reflecting a balanced view of both personal emotions and social responsibilities.

**225.** (D) The rust-resistant Iron Pillar of Delhi.
The advanced knowledge of metallurgy in ancient India is famously exemplified by the Iron Pillar of Delhi, located near the Qutub

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Following this, he appointed Dhamma Mahamattas to promote moral conduct and later convened the Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra to ensure the unity and purity of the faith. These events trace his evolution from an aggressive conqueror to a benevolent ethical ruler.

**196.** (D) The Northwestern region
The Pahlavas, also known as the Indo-Parthians, were primarily associated with ruling the northwestern region of the Indian subcontinent during the first century CE. Originally of Iranian origin, they established their authority over territories in modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan after the decline of Indo-Greek and Shaka power. Their presence in the northwest facilitated cultural and commercial exchanges between India and the Parthian Empire, contributing to the region's diverse political and artistic history during the post-Mauryan era.

**197.** (C) Gondophares
Gondophares was the most famous and powerful ruler of the Pahlava or Indo-Parthian dynasty, governing over a vast territory in northwestern India. His reign is historically significant due to his association with St. Thomas the Apostle, who is said to have visited his court. Inscriptions and coins from his era provide evidence of his sovereign status and the territorial extent of his kingdom, marking a period of significant political influence for the Pahlavas in the region before the Kushan ascendancy.

**198.** (B) Jainism and the art traditions of Mathura.
The 'Shak Khatrapas of Mathura' were known for their significant patronage of Jainism and the vibrant artistic traditions of the Mathura region. Under their rule, the city became a major center for religious activities and the production of diverse sculptures. They supported the construction of Jain monuments and provided gifts to monastic communities, reflecting their policy of integrating with local traditions and fostering a cultural environment where multiple faiths and sophisticated indigenous art forms could flourish simultaneously.

**199.** (D) The Buddhacharita
Ashvaghosha was a preeminent literary figure and Buddhist philosopher who lived during the Kushan period and authored the 'Buddhacharita'. This work is a celebrated epic poem written in Sanskrit that narratively details the life and enlightenment of the Buddha. His literary contributions were instrumental in making Buddhist teachings more accessible and appealing to a wider audience, reflecting the flourishing of sophisticated courtly literature and the deep patronage of Buddhism under the Kushan emperor Kanishka.

**200.** (A) Pearl fisheries and trade with Rome.
The economic prosperity of the Pandya kingdom was primarily driven by its lucrative pearl fisheries and its extensive maritime trade links with the Roman Empire. The Pandyas controlled the rich pearl-producing areas of the southern coast, which provided a highly valuable commodity for international export. This trade brought immense wealth and foreign coins into the kingdom, supporting its vibrant culture and the legendary Sangam assemblies, while establishing Madurai as a major commercial and intellectual hub in South India.

**201.** (C) The Arthashastra
Kautilya's Arthashastra is a comprehensive ancient Indian text that, among its many topics, provides a classification of plants and detailed guidance on various aspects of agriculture. It discusses techniques for soil management, irrigation, and the cultivation of different crops, reflecting the state's deep interest in maximizing agricultural productivity for revenue purposes. This focus on rural economy highlights the sophisticated understanding of natural resources and administrative management that underpinned the stability and prosperity of the Mauryan state.

**202.** (A) A regular tax on agricultural produce
In the Mauryan administrative system, the term 'Kara' referred to a regular tax levied on agricultural produce, serving as a primary source of revenue for the state. This tax was collected from the peasantry and was essential for funding the large standing army and the extensive central bureaucracy. The systematic collection of Kara reflected the government's highly organized fiscal policies and its deep involvement in the management of the agrarian economy across the diverse provinces of the empire.

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their power over an Indian population, blending foreign royal iconography with indigenous sculptural traditions.

**233.** (C) Brihaspatimitra
Kharavela's Hathigumpha inscription mentions a successful military campaign against the king of Magadha, who is identified in the text as Brihaspatimitra. According to the record, Kharavela defeated the Magadhan forces and brought back a sacred Jain image that had been taken away by previous rulers. This victory was a significant achievement for Kharavela, as it symbolized the restoration of Kalinga's prestige and his ability to challenge the traditional seat of imperial power in Northern India.

**234.** (D) Mix of animism and Brahminism.
The religion and beliefs of the people during the Sangam Age were characterized by a rich mix of indigenous animism and the gradual influence of Brahmanical traditions. Local deities like Murugan were worshipped alongside Vedic rituals, while beliefs in spirits and ancestral worship remained prevalent. This religious landscape was pluralistic, with Buddhism and Jainism also gaining a presence in urban centers. This synthesis of diverse traditions shaped the unique spiritual and cultural identity of ancient South Indian society.

**235.** (C) The five elements (Pancha Mahabhutas).
The ancient Indian knowledge system equivalent to physics would include sophisticated theories about the 'Pancha Mahabhutas' or the five elements: earth, water, fire, air, and ether. Scholars explored the properties and interactions of these elements to explain the physical world and the nature of matter. This elemental framework was foundational to many sciences, including medicine and metallurgy, and reflected an early attempt to understand the laws governing the material universe through observation and philosophical inquiry.

**236.** (B) To maintain control over a large empire.
Despite his personal commitment to non-violence and the policy of Dhamma, Ashoka maintained a large standing army to ensure internal stability and defend the extensive borders of the Mauryan Empire. A strong military presence was necessary to maintain control over a vast and diverse territory and to deter potential rebellions or external threats. While he renounced aggressive expansion, Ashoka recognized that organized coercive power remained essential for the survival and administrative integrity of the state.

**237.** (D) Sandstone from Chunar.
The famous monolithic polished stone pillars of the Mauryan period were typically made from fine-grained, greyish-buff sandstone quarried from Chunar near Varanasi. This specific material was chosen for its durability and its ability to take the high, glass-like polish that became a hallmark of Mauryan craftsmanship. The pillars were often transported long distances from the quarries to various parts of the empire, showcasing the state's significant logistical capabilities and its commitment to erecting permanent imperial monuments.

**238.** (A) The history is obscure.
The history of the final dynasty to rule from Magadha after the short-lived Kanvas and before the rise of the Guptas is relatively obscure. Following the decline of the Kanva dynasty, Magadha underwent a period of political fragmentation where local rulers and small states held authority. The lack of detailed inscriptions and coins from this transitional era makes it difficult for historians to reconstruct a clear and continuous chronological account of the regional political landscape during this time.

**239.** (C) Advanced hydraulic engineering.
The construction and maintenance of the Sudarshana Lake in Saurashtra signifies the highly advanced state of hydraulic engineering and water management in ancient India. Spanning several centuries, the lake's history involved building an embankment to create a reservoir, providing irrigation for the semi-arid region. This long-term project required sophisticated knowledge of topography and construction techniques, and its continued upkeep by various dynasties demonstrates the state's ongoing commitment to managing natural resources for agricultural prosperity and public welfare.

**240.** (A) The Satavahanas
The rise of the Shaka Khatrapas in western India posed a persistent and significant military

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By controlling key segments of the Silk Road, the Kushans fostered intense interactions between Indian, Hellenistic, Persian, and Chinese traditions. This open and cosmopolitan environment allowed for a unique synthesis in art, religion, and governance, explaining why the period is characterized by a remarkable fusion of various cultural and spiritual influences.

**211.** (C) The Udayagiri Hills
The famous Hathigumpha inscription, which details the reign and achievements of King Kharavela of Kalinga, is located in the Udayagiri Hills near modern-day Bhubaneswar. Inscribed on the wall of a natural cavern, this record is a primary source for understanding the history of eastern India during the first century BCE. It provides a rare chronological account of the king's military campaigns and his religious patronage of Jainism, making the Udayagiri Hills a significant site for Indian historiography.

**212.** (D) There was no foreign trade.
The statement that there was no foreign trade during the Sangam Age is incorrect, as historical and archaeological evidence strongly indicates extensive maritime commerce. South Indian kingdoms, particularly the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas, maintained vibrant trade links with the Roman Empire and Southeast Asia. The export of spices, textiles, and precious stones brought significant wealth to the region, and this international commercial activity was a cornerstone of the Sangam Age's economic prosperity and cultural vibrancy.

**213.** (A) Political philosophy and statecraft
Varahamihira's 'Brihat Samhita' is an encyclopedic ancient Indian work that covers a remarkably broad range of topics, including astronomy, geography, architecture, and gemology. However, it does not primarily deal with political philosophy or the specific details of statecraft, which were instead the focus of texts like the Arthashastra. The 'Brihat Samhita' is instead celebrated for its comprehensive scientific and observational approach to the natural world and various human activities, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of ancient Indian knowledge.

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**214.** (B) Kautilya in the Arthashastra.
The Saptanga theory, which describes the state as an organic entity composed of seven essential organs, is a central political philosophy attributed to Kautilya in the Arthashastra. This model identifies the king, ministers, territory, fortified capital, treasury, army, and allies as the interconnected limbs necessary for a stable and prosperous kingdom. By emphasizing the functional relationship between these components, Kautilya provided a sophisticated framework for understanding ancient Indian governance and the requirements for maintaining sovereign power.

**215.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
The Mauryan bureaucracy included various specialized officials to manage the state's diverse administrative needs. The Sannidhata served as the chief of the treasury, while the Samaharta acted as the collector-general of revenue. The Nagarika was responsible for urban governance as the city superintendent, and the Gramika functioned as the head of village administration. This hierarchical structure facilitated efficient financial management and local control, ensuring the smooth operation of the vast and highly centralized imperial government.

**216.** (A) Defeat of the Nanda dynasty.
The most significant military and political achievement of Chandragupta Maurya was his successful overthrow of the powerful Nanda dynasty. With the strategic assistance of his advisor, Chanakya, he managed to conquer Magadha and seize the throne, which laid the foundation for the Mauryan Empire. This victory ended the rule of a large and wealthy predecessor and allowed Chandragupta to begin the process of unifying large parts of the Indian subcontinent under a single, centralized imperial authority.

**217.** (C) Royal reporters and informers
Ashoka appointed specialized officials known as Pativedakas to serve as royal reporters and informers within his administrative system. These officials were granted the unique privilege of reporting to the emperor at any time, even in his personal quarters, about the affairs of the subjects and the conduct of the government. By maintaining this direct channel of information, Ashoka aimed to stay informed about the needs

**203.** (D) Jain
The account of Chandragupta Maurya traveling to Shravanabelagola in his final days is a central tenet of the Jain tradition. According to these records, the emperor abdicated his throne and became a monk under the guidance of the Jain leader Bhadrabahu. He ended his life through the practice of Sallekhana, or ritual fasting, in Karnataka. this tradition highlights the historical connection between early Mauryan rulers and Jainism, significantly influencing the subsequent religious history of South India.

**204.** (B) The village elders.
In the Mauryan administrative system, the village headman or Gramika was typically assisted by a council of village elders in managing local affairs. This arrangement allowed for a degree of community participation and traditional governance within the centralized imperial structure. The elders helped resolve local disputes, oversee collective agricultural activities, and act as a bridge between the villagers and higher administrative officials, ensuring that local needs were addressed while maintaining the broader interests of the state.

**205.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Ashoka's Pillar Edicts are generally more uniform in their content and presentation compared to the Rock Edicts, as they were often issued at the same time to convey a consistent message. These edicts were inscribed on highly polished, monolithic sandstone pillars that were erected at key locations throughout the empire. The use of durable stone and sophisticated polishing techniques ensured that these imperial decrees served as permanent and visible symbols of the emperor's policy of Dhamma and moral governance.

**206.** (D) Brahmi
Brahmi was the primary script utilized for the vast majority of Ashoka's stone inscriptions throughout the Indian subcontinent. As the precursor to most modern Indian scripts, it served as an essential medium for communicating the emperor's policy of Dhamma to his diverse subjects. The widespread use of Brahmi facilitated the standardization of administrative decrees and moral instructions, providing a critical historical record of Mauryan governance and the spread of ethical principles across a unified and vast imperial territory.

**207.** (A) A desire for greater autonomy.
The disintegration of the Mauryan Empire was partly driven by the economic and administrative development of outlying provinces, which eventually fostered a desire for greater local autonomy. As these regions became more prosperous and self-sufficient, they were less inclined to remain under the strict control of a distant central authority in Pataliputra, especially under weaker successors. This regionalism led to several provincial secessions and the eventual emergence of independent kingdoms, contributing to the collapse of unified Mauryan rule.

**208.** (B) Bharhut and gateways of Sanchi
The Shunga period is notably associated with significant artistic developments at Buddhist sites like Bharhut and the elaborate gateways of the Great Stupa at Sanchi. Although the Shunga rulers are often described as proponents of Brahmanical revival, they also patronized the embellishment of these major Buddhist monuments. The relief sculptures found at these sites provide a rich visual narrative of Buddhist stories and contemporary life, showcasing the continuity and evolution of Indian artistic traditions following the Mauryan era.

**209.** (B) Vakatakas
Following the decline of the Satavahana dynasty in the third century CE, they were succeeded in the western Deccan by the Vakatakas. The Vakatakas emerged as a major political power, establishing a significant kingdom that maintained close cultural and political ties with the contemporary Gupta Empire in the north. Their reign was marked by important artistic achievements, including the patronage of several Ajanta caves, and they played a crucial role in the political stability of central India for several centuries.

**210.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Kushan period was a significant era of cultural syncretism because the rulers successfully facilitated international trade and blended diverse cultural and religious elements.

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Minar. Despite being exposed to the open air for over sixteen hundred years, the pillar remains remarkably resistant to rust and corrosion. The sophisticated chemical composition and the high level of technical skill used in its manufacture demonstrate the expertise of ancient Indian metalworkers in creating high-quality, durable iron structures that have survived through the centuries.

**226.** (B) Acted as banks and managed trade.
The concept of a Guild, or Shreni, was highly significant in ancient India because these bodies functioned as multifaceted economic organizations. Beyond regulating production and quality for specific trades, they acted as banks by accepting deposits and providing loans. Guilds also managed long-distance trade, established codes of conduct for their members, and often served as charitable institutions. Their financial and organizational power made them indispensable to the economic stability and commercial growth of ancient Indian urban centers.

**227.** (C) Taxila
Ashokan edicts mention four main provincial capitals that served as the regional administrative centers of the Mauryan Empire: Tosali in the east, Ujjain in the west, Suvarnagiri in the south, and Taxila in the northwest. These cities were governed by royal princes or high officials, allowing the central government in Pataliputra to maintain control over its vast and diverse territories. Taxila, in particular, was a vital hub for trade and strategic defense on the empire's sensitive northwestern frontier.

**228.** (D) A new religious sect with rituals.
Ashoka's Dhamma was fundamentally a code of moral and ethical conduct rather than a new religious sect with its own unique rituals. It focused on promoting universal values like non-violence, social responsibility, and religious tolerance to unify his diverse empire. While influenced by Buddhist principles, Dhamma was designed to be accessible to people of all faiths, aiming to foster social harmony and moral righteousness without imposing a specific set of religious practices or replacing existing sectarian beliefs.

**229.** (A) A highly state-regulated economy.
The economic policies described in Kautilya's Arthashastra suggest a highly state-regulated economy where the government maintained significant control over key sectors. The state managed irrigation, regulated trade through guilds, and held monopolies on mining and metallurgy. This centralized approach allowed the Mauryan administration to maximize revenue and ensure economic stability. The state also set prices and quality standards for goods, reflecting a sophisticated system of intervention intended to fund the imperial treasury and manage national resources effectively.

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**230.** (B) White/Greyish Marble
The art of the Satavahana period at Amaravati is noted for its extensive and sophisticated use of white or greyish marble-like limestone for its sculptures and architectural elements. This choice of material allowed for the creation of intricate, detailed relief carvings that are characterized by dynamic movement and complex compositions. The soft, luminous appearance of the white stone enhanced the aesthetic appeal of the Great Stupa and other monuments, making Amaravati a premier center of ancient Indian Buddhist art and craftsmanship.

**231.** (B) Numismatics
The Indo-Greeks had a profound and lasting influence on subsequent Indian numismatics by introducing the practice of issuing coins with realistic royal portraits and legends. Before their arrival, Indian coins were primarily punch-marked and symbolic. The adoption of Hellenistic coinage traditions by the Indo-Greeks provided a model for future Indian dynasties, such as the Kushans and Guptas, who utilized high-quality coins to assert their imperial authority and display the prestige of their rulers to their diverse subjects.

**232.** (A) Central Asian attire and martial ID.
A striking and unique feature of Kanishka's headless statue found at Mathura is the depiction of the emperor in traditional Central Asian attire, including a heavy coat and boots. The statue also showcases his martial identity through the presence of a sword and a mace. This imagery reflects the Kushan rulers' effort to maintain their distinct cultural identity while asserting

political components necessary for a functioning government rather than the broader social classifications of the population.

**173.** (C) Rock Edict XIII
Ashoka's Major Rock Edict XIII is of great historical importance because it mentions the names of contemporary Greek kings ruling in the West, such as Antiochus of Syria and Ptolemy of Egypt. These references provide crucial chronological markers that help historians date Ashoka's reign and document his diplomatic reach. The edict records that the emperor sent envoys to these foreign lands to spread his message of Dhamma, showcasing the international scope of his ethical missions.

**174.** (D) Stone
The material culture of the Mauryan age is distinguished by the first large-scale and sophisticated use of stone for monumental artistic and architectural purposes. Prior to this period, construction was predominantly in wood, thatch, and mud. The creation of monolithic polished pillars, rock-cut caves, and detailed stone sculptures represents a major technological and artistic leap, leaving behind permanent records that have significantly shaped our understanding of ancient Indian civilization and state patronage.

**175.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The disintegration of the Mauryan Empire is attributed to a combination of factors, including the vastness of its territory, which made centralized control increasingly difficult. Weak successors following Ashoka's death were unable to maintain imperial authority, while some historians suggest that the pacifist policies of Dhamma may have weakened the state's military readiness. These internal and external pressures collectively contributed to the rise of regional powers and the eventual fragmentation of the vast unified empire.

**176.** (B) Satavahanas
The Satavahana dynasty, ruling from their capital at Pratishthana, emerged as a major power in the Deccan for approximately four hundred years. Following the decline of the Mauryas, they successfully unified large parts of central and southern India. Their reign was marked by significant commercial prosperity, the patronage of diverse religious traditions, and the construction of grand monuments. The Satavahanas served as a vital political and cultural link between the northern plains and the southern peninsula.

**177.** (B) Indo-Roman trade and ports
The 'Periplus of the Erythraean Sea', an ancient Greek navigational guide, provides detailed information about the thriving Indo-Roman trade and the various port cities along the Indian coast. It describes the specific commodities exchanged, such as Indian spices and Roman coins, and lists key maritime hubs like Muziris and Barygaza. This work is a primary source for understanding the international commercial networks that connected India with the Mediterranean world during the early centuries of the common era.

**178.** (A) The Satavahanas
The 'Shakas of Ujjain', belonging to the Western Khatrapa dynasty, were in constant and prolonged conflict with the Satavahanas for control of the Deccan and western India. This rivalry was primarily driven by the competition to dominate lucrative trade routes and fertile territories. The struggle saw various fortunes for both sides, with rulers like Gautamiputra Satakarni and Rudradaman I leading significant military campaigns to expand their respective empires and diminish the influence of their rivals.

**179.** (C) Ashvaghosha
Ashvaghosha was a renowned Buddhist scholar, poet, and philosopher who flourished under the patronage of the Kushan emperor Kanishka. He is famous for authoring the 'Buddhacharita', an epic poem on the life of the Buddha, and played a significant role in the development of Mahayana Buddhism. His presence at the Kushan court reflects the period's vibrant intellectual life and Kanishka's role as a major supporter of Buddhist learning and literature across his vast empire.

**180.** (C) A is true but R is false.
Sangam literature is indeed a crucial source for understanding ancient South India, but it was not composed by a single author. Instead, it is a vast compilation of poems produced by hundreds of different poets over several centuries in various assemblies. While it provides a rich portrayal of Tamil society, its diverse authorship means it

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and economic challenge to the contemporary Satavahana dynasty in the Deccan. Both powers competed for control over the lucrative trade ports and productive territories of the region. This rivalry lasted for several generations, with rulers like Nahapana and Gautamiputra Satakarni leading major campaigns to gain supremacy, deeply influencing the political and territorial dynamics of ancient western and central India.

**241.** (D) Silk Road connecting China and Rome.
The location of the Kushan Empire was highly strategic because it straddled the vital trade routes of the Silk Road that connected China with the Roman Empire. By controlling key segments of these transcontinental paths, the Kushans facilitated and profited from the exchange of goods, such as silk and spices, as well as ideas and religions. This central position allowed the empire to flourish as a major commercial and cultural bridge between the diverse civilizations of the ancient world.

**242.** (B) Contradictory roles in patriarchy.
The social condition of women in the Sangam Age appears to have involved contradictory roles within a generally patriarchal framework. While women were often idealized in poetry and some enjoyed high status as poetesses or priestesses, their lives were also governed by strict social norms and domestic expectations. Sangam literature reflects both their agency in matters of love and their vulnerability in a heroic society focused on war, showcasing a complex social reality where women's roles were multifaceted and sometimes restricted.

**243.** (C) Kautilya's Artha-shashtra
The concept of "Dandaniti," which refers to the science of government and the art of punishment, is most elaborately and systematically discussed in Kautilya's Arthashastra. The text provides a comprehensive framework for the application of state authority to maintain social order, ensure justice, and protect the kingdom. Kautilya argues that the judicious use of the rod of punishment is essential for a ruler to prevent chaos and ensure the continued prosperity and stability of the entire political system.

**244.** (D) Monastery dwelling place.
A Vihar is correctly described as a monastery or a residential dwelling place for Buddhist or Jain monks. In ancient India, these structures were designed to provide living quarters, common areas, and spaces for study and meditation, especially during the monsoon season. Vihars often featured a central courtyard surrounded by individual cells for the monks, distinguishing them from Chaityas, which were specifically intended as prayer halls and sacred shrines for congregational worship and religious rituals.

**245.** (A) Quotations in works of later writers.
Knowledge of Megasthenes' work, titled Indica, comes exclusively from fragments and quotations preserved in the writings of later Greek and Roman historians. The original text itself has been lost over time. Despite this, the preserved excerpts provide invaluable information about the Mauryan court, Pataliputra, and contemporary Indian society. These second-hand accounts serve as a primary source for understanding how foreign observers perceived the administration, economy, and culture of ancient India during the Mauryan period.

**246.** (B) Major Rock Edict XIII
The profound effect of the Kalinga War on Ashoka is primarily known through his own testimony in Major Rock Edict XIII. In this inscription, the emperor expresses deep remorse for the suffering he caused and explains how the trauma led him to renounce military conquest. This edict provides a direct and personal account of his transformation from an aggressive expansionist to a compassionate ruler dedicated to Dhamma, making it a critical document for understanding his reign.

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**247.** (B) Monolithic polished stone pillars.
One Mauryan cultural element that is often cited as demonstrating Persian influence is the use of monolithic polished stone pillars. Some architectural features, such as the use of high-quality stone polish and certain motifs on the capitals, show similarities to the monumental traditions of the Achaemenid Empire. While Mauryan craftsmen developed a distinct indigenous style, the overall concept of erecting grand stone columns as symbols of imperial

'Dhamma Ghosha', the sound of righteousness, over 'Bheri Ghosha', the sound of the war drum. This significant shift marked his renunciation of military conquest in favor of moral conquest through the principles of Dhamma. The conversion led to a profound transformation of his domestic and foreign policies, focusing on spreading ethical conduct, social harmony, and the welfare of all people.

**278.** (B) Brahmin general of the army.
The Shunga dynasty was founded by Pushyamitra Shunga, who served as a Brahmin general of the army under the last Mauryan king, Brihadratha. He established his rule after assassinating the monarch during a military parade. His rise to power represents a significant political shift and is often associated with a revival of Brahmanical rituals and traditional social orders. Under his leadership, the Shunga dynasty defended Northern India against foreign invasions and asserted its authority following the collapse of Mauryan rule.

**279.** (B) Sakala
Menander, the most famous and powerful Indo-Greek ruler, established his primary capital at Sakala, located in modern-day Sialkot. From this strategic base, he governed a vast territory and engaged in significant military and cultural activities. Sakala flourished as a major hub for trade and intellectual exchange, and it was at this city that Menander's legendary philosophical dialogues with the Buddhist monk Nagasena took place. His reign left a lasting impact on the political and religious history of the northwestern Indian subcontinent.

**280.** (A) The Kuei-shuang
The Kushan dynasty belonged to the Kuei-shuang branch of the Yueh-chi, a group of five nomadic tribes from Central Asia. Under the leadership of Kujula Kadphises, the Kuei-shuang united the other tribes and began their expansion into the Kabul valley and northwestern India. This unification provided the foundation for the Kushan Empire, which eventually became a dominant regional power, bridging the cultures of China, Central Asia, and India while controlling major portions of the Silk Road trade.

**281.** (C) Ancient South India
Sangam is a fundamental term associated with the ancient history of South India, specifically referring to the assemblies of Tamil poets and scholars that took place under the patronage of the Pandya kings. These assemblies produced a rich body of early Tamil literature that serves as a primary source for understanding the social, political, and cultural life of the region. The Sangam Age represents the classical period of South Indian history, characterized by heroic poetry, vibrant trade, and distinct local traditions.

**282.** (D) Barabar and Nagarjuni Hills
Significant rock-cut architecture from the Mauryan period is found at the Barabar and Nagarjuni Hills in Bihar. These caves, dedicated by Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha to Ajivika ascetics, represent some of the earliest and most sophisticated examples of rock-cut structures in India. Characterized by their simple but elegant design and high-quality "Mauryan polish," these caves served as models for the development of subsequent Buddhist and Jain rock-cut architecture throughout the Indian subcontinent for several centuries.

**283.** (C) Pallavas - Kanchipuram
The pairing of Pallavas with Kanchipuram as a Sangam kingdom is incorrect because the Pallavas became a dominant power only in the post-Sangam period. During the Sangam Age, the far south was ruled by the Cholas from Uraiyur, the Cheras from Vanji, and the Pandyas from Madurai. While Kanchipuram later became a major capital under the Pallavas, it was not one of the primary seats of the three traditional Tamil kingdoms celebrated in the earliest body of Sangam literature.

**284.** (B) Collection of revenue
In Kautilya's Arthashastra, the 'Samaharta' was the high-ranking official responsible for the overall collection of revenue and the preparation of the state's budget. He oversaw various sources of income, including agricultural taxes, customs duties, and profits from state industries. His role was essential for ensuring the fiscal health of the Mauryan Empire, as he coordinated a large bureaucracy of local and district officials to systematically gather and manage the

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**255.** (C) Mention his personal name, Ashoka.
The Maski and Gurjara edicts of Ashoka are exceptionally important to historians because they are among the few inscriptions that explicitly mention the emperor's personal name, Ashoka. Most of his other inscriptions refer to him only by the titles "Devanampiya" and "Priyadarshi." The discovery of his name in these specific edicts confirmed the identification of the "Priyadarshi" of the inscriptions with the Ashoka mentioned in ancient Buddhist and Puranic literature, resolving a major question in Indian historiography.

**256.** (A) Chaitya is a prayer hall; Vihar is a monastery.
A key functional difference between a Chaitya and a Vihar is that a Chaitya serves as a prayer hall or sacred shrine, while a Vihar functions as a residential monastery for monks. Architecturally, Chaityas are often characterized by their apsidal ends and the presence of a stupa for worship. Vihars, conversely, are designed for communal living, providing individual cells and common rooms. Both structures were central to Buddhist and Jain monastic life, serving distinct but complementary spiritual and practical purposes.

**257.** (D) Gunpowder leading to defeat.
While multiple factors like weak successors and economic crisis contributed to the Mauryan decline, gunpowder was not a plausible reason as it was completely unknown in ancient India during that period. The fall of the empire resulted from internal administrative failures, fiscal strain, and the rise of regional powers following Ashoka's death. Military defeats during this era were due to traditional warfare and political fragmentation, rather than the use of advanced explosive technology which appeared many centuries later.

**258.** (B) Kanvas
The Kanva dynasty immediately succeeded the Shungas in Magadha around 73 BCE. Similar to the Mauryan-Shunga transition, the first Kanva ruler, Vasudeva, came to power by overthrowing the last Shunga king, Devabhuti. The Kanvas were of Brahmin origin and ruled a reduced territory centered around the Magadha region. Their reign was relatively brief, lasting less than fifty years before the regional political landscape was transformed by the expansion of other powers like the Satavahanas.

**259.** (C) Buddhist life in Greco-Roman style.
The Gandhara school of art primarily depicted scenes from Buddhist life and the Buddha himself using a distinct Greco-Roman stylistic approach. Flourishing in the northwestern frontier under the Kushans, this artistic tradition featured realistic human anatomy, wavy hair, and draped garments similar to those found in Hellenistic sculpture. This school represents a unique cultural synthesis, where classical Western artistic techniques were employed to visualize the spiritual narratives and sacred figures of ancient Indian Buddhism for a diverse population.

**260.** (D) The Roman Empire
The economic condition of the Sangam Age was significantly boosted by extensive maritime trade with the Roman Empire. The high demand for South Indian spices, precious stones, and textiles in the Mediterranean world led to a flourishing exchange that brought large quantities of Roman gold and silver into the region. Archaeological finds of Roman coins and artifacts at several port cities and inland sites confirm the scale and importance of this international commerce for the wealth of the southern kingdoms.

**261.** (A) Chemistry and rejuvenation therapies.
In the ancient Indian knowledge system, 'Rasayana' was primarily concerned with chemistry and rejuvenation therapies. It involved the study of minerals, metals, and herbal compounds to create medicines aimed at prolonging life and improving health. As an early branch of medical science, Rasayana focused on detoxification and the strengthening of the body's natural resistance. This field reflects a sophisticated understanding of chemical processes and their physiological effects, contributing significantly to the development of Indian pharmacology and holistic health traditions.

**262.** (B) Bureaucracy with many departments.
A defining feature of Chandragupta Maurya's central administration was the existence of a vast and highly organized bureaucracy with numerous specialized departments. As described in the Arthashastra, these departments oversaw diverse areas such as agriculture, trade, mining, and weights and measures. Each department

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# CHAPTER 04
# Concepts and ideas of Ancient India

**1.** What is the term used in ancient India for the property over which a woman had full rights, often received as gifts during her marriage?
(A) Agraharas
(B) Stridhana
(C) Vesara
(D) Memorial stones

**2.** Consider the following statements regarding the ancient Indian land grants called 'Agrahara':
Statement I: Agraharas were land grants typically given to religious institutions.
Statement II: Agraharas were land grants given exclusively to Brahmins for their learning and religious duties.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**3.** Which of the following is NOT a major style of temple architecture?
(A) Nagara
(B) Dravida
(C) Gandhara
(D) Vesara

**4.** The Vesara style of temple architecture is best described as a hybrid of which two styles?
(A) Nagara and Kalinga
(B) Dravida and Pallava
(C) Gupta and Gandhara
(D) Nagara and Dravida

**5.** Identify the correct statement regarding memorial stones in ancient India.
(A) They were exclusively erected by the state to commemorate military victories in grand battles.
(B) They were primarily used as sacred markers to define the boundaries for donated Agraharas.
(C) They were erected in memory of fallen heroes or women who performed the ritual of sati.
(D) They were a specific architectural feature found only in the administrative centers of the Gupta empire.

**6.** The Nagara style of temple architecture is predominantly associated with which region of India?
(A) Southern India
(B) Northern India
(C) Eastern India
(D) Western India

**7.** What was the primary purpose of an 'Agrahara' in ancient Indian society?
(A) A busy marketplace for various foreign goods
(B) A secure military cantonment for the army
(C) A residential area for guilds and artisans
(D) A land grant to Brahmins or religious bodies

**8.** Identify the incorrect statement about the Dravida style of architecture.
(A) It is a hybrid style blending Gupta and Kushan elements.
(B) It is primarily found in Southern India.
(C) It is characterized by a pyramidal tower called a 'Vimana'.
(D) It often features a large water tank within the temple complex.

**9.** Who is considered the founder of the Gupta dynasty who assumed the title of Maharajadhiraja?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Sri Gupta
(C) Chandragupta I
(D) Ghatotkacha

**10.** Consider the following statements about 'Stridhana' in ancient India:
I. It could be inherited by the woman's children.
II. Her husband had complete control over its

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ability to maintain control over distant and strategically important coastal provinces.

**270.** (A) Social responsibility and non-violence.
The content of Ashoka's Dhamma emphasizes universal ethical values, particularly social responsibility and non-violence. Rather than focusing on specific religious rituals or sectarian dogmas, the policy encouraged subjects to practice compassion, religious tolerance, and respect for all living beings. Ashoka aimed to create a harmonious society where ethical conduct and mutual respect formed the basis of social interactions, transforming the Mauryan state into a vehicle for the moral well-being and peaceful coexistence of its diverse population.

**271.** (C) Origin and direction of writing.
A primary difference between the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts is their origin and direction of writing. Brahmi was written from left to right and is the ancestor of most modern Indian scripts, while Kharosthi was written from right to left and was influenced by Aramaic. Both scripts were used by Ashoka for his inscriptions to communicate with different regional populations, reflecting the linguistic diversity of the Mauryan Empire and the pragmatic administrative approach of using local writing traditions to spread the imperial message.

**272.** (A) Tolerant personal Brahmanism.
The religious policy of the Satavahana rulers can be described as one of tolerant personal Brahmanism. While the kings personally followed Vedic traditions and performed sacrifices to legitimate their authority, they also exhibited significant tolerance and support for other faiths. This pluralistic approach is evidenced by their generous land grants and donations for the construction of Buddhist stupas and monasteries. The Satavahanas fostered a religious environment where diverse traditions could coexist peacefully and flourish under state patronage.

**273.** (D) Kharavela
Kharavela was the most significant and powerful ruler of the Chedi dynasty of Kalinga. His reign, documented in the Hathigumpha inscription, was marked by extensive military campaigns and significant public works. He successfully challenged neighboring powers and asserted the independence and prestige of Kalinga following the decline of Mauryan authority. Kharavela's patronage of Jainism and his efforts to restore the prosperity of his kingdom made him a legendary figure in the history of eastern India during the post-Mauryan era.

**274.** (B) Korkai
Korkai was a major port city of the Pandya kingdom during the Sangam Age, renowned for being a key center of the lucrative pearl fishing industry. Located on the southeastern coast, it served as a vital hub for international maritime trade with the Roman Empire and other foreign states. The wealth generated from the export of pearls through Korkai contributed significantly to the economic prosperity of the Pandyas and supported their role as great patrons of Tamil culture and the Sangam assemblies.

**275.** (C) Discovery of universal gravitation.
Aryabhata's contributions to ancient Indian astronomy were groundbreaking and included the theory that the Earth rotates on its own axis and a scientific explanation for solar and lunar eclipses. He also provided a highly accurate approximation for the value of pi. However, the discovery and formalization of universal gravitation as a scientific law is not attributed to him. Despite this, his work in the 'Aryabhatiya' laid the mathematical and observational foundations for many fundamental concepts in the history of astronomy.

**276.** (D) Forced labor for state projects.
In the Mauryan context, 'Vishti' refers to the practice of extracting forced labor from the population to support various state projects. This labor was used for building fortifications, maintaining irrigation works, and other public infrastructures. It was viewed as a form of tax paid through physical service rather than currency or goods. The state's ability to mobilize labor through Vishti reflects its highly organized administrative control and its capacity to execute large-scale construction and military tasks to support imperial goals.

**277.** (A) The destruction from the Kalinga War.
The traumatic experience of witnessing the immense death and destruction during the Kalinga War prompted Ashoka to adopt

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was managed by superintendents known as Adhyakshas, who reported to the central authority. This systematic and professional administrative structure was essential for managing the economic and political complexities of a large and unified imperial state.

**263.** (B) Amaravati
While Ashoka erected pillars in many parts of his empire, Major Pillar Edicts are found at sites like Lauriya-Nandangarh, Delhi-Topra, and Sanchi, but not at Amaravati. The pillars served as permanent monuments for communicating his administrative and ethical policies. While Amaravati became a major center of Buddhist art under the later Satavahanas, it is not known as a location for Ashoka's Major Pillar Edicts, reflecting the specific geographical distribution of these imperial monuments across Northern and Central India.

**264.** (A) Karle Chaitya and Amaravati stupa.
Art and architecture under the Satavahanas are best exemplified by grand projects like the rock-cut Karle Chaitya and the elaborately carved Amaravati stupa. The Karle Chaitya is one of the largest and most impressive prayer halls in India, featuring massive pillars and sophisticated stone carving. The Amaravati stupa is celebrated for its dynamic relief sculptures that depict Buddhist legends with exceptional artistic skill. These monuments reflect the dynasty's patronage of Buddhism and the flourishing of sophisticated artistic traditions in the Deccan.

**265.** (C) First royal inscription in chaste Sanskrit.
The Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman I is a significant landmark in Indian history because it is the first major royal inscription written in chaste Sanskrit. Prior to this, most royal inscriptions were composed in Prakrit or other local dialects. Rudradaman's use of sophisticated Sanskrit demonstrated his deep integration into Indian literary and cultural life. The record also details his military achievements and his benevolence in repairing public works, showcasing his role as a cultured and capable sovereign in western India.

**266.** (D) Mahayana
Kanishka's patronage was crucial for the flourishing of the Mahayana school of Buddhism. Under his reign, the Fourth Buddhist Council was convened in Kashmir, which solidified Mahayana doctrines and facilitated their spread across Central and East Asia. Kanishka supported the creation of images of the Buddha and the construction of numerous stupas and monasteries, providing the institutional support and cultural environment necessary for Mahayana Buddhism to emerge as a dominant and widely influential spiritual tradition throughout his vast empire.

**267.** (C) Madurai
The term 'Sangam' refers to the legendary assemblies of poets and scholars that were held in the city of Madurai under the patronage of the Pandya kings. These gatherings were central to the production and compilation of the earliest body of Tamil literature. Madurai served as the intellectual and cultural heart of the ancient Tamil country, where these poetic works were formally authorized, making it a pivotal site for the preservation and development of the South Indian literary tradition.

**268.** (B) Kautilya in the Arthashastra.
The Saptanga theory, an organic model describing the state as having seven essential limbs, is a fundamental political concept attributed to Kautilya in his treatise, the Arthashastra. This model identifies the king, ministers, territory, fortified capital, treasury, army, and allies as the interconnected components necessary for a functioning state. By focusing on the functional relationship between these elements, Kautilya provided a comprehensive framework for understanding the administration and maintenance of sovereign power in ancient Indian political science.

NODIA

**269.** (D) Saurashtra
The conquest of the Saurashtra region in western India was a significant achievement that extended the Mauryan Empire's reach to the Arabian Sea. This expansion secured vital maritime trade routes and allowed the state to profit from international commerce through western port cities. Archaeological evidence, such as the construction of the Sudarshana Lake during Chandragupta Maurya's reign, confirms the integration of Saurashtra into the imperial administration, demonstrating the empire's

resources required to fund the state's extensive administrative and military operations.

**285.** (D) Kharosthi
The Kharosthi script was primarily used in the northwestern part of the Mauryan Empire for Ashoka's stone inscriptions. This script, written from right to left, was suited for the local populations in regions like modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan who were culturally influenced by neighboring Iranian traditions. By using Kharosthi alongside Brahmi in other regions, Ashoka ensured that his message of Dhamma and imperial decrees were accessible to all his subjects, regardless of the distinct writing systems prevalent in their respective geographical areas.

**286.** (A) Brahmins and Buddhist monks.
A significant aspect of Satavahana administration was the practice of granting tax-free land to Brahmins and Buddhist monks. These grants, which became a foundational feature of subsequent Indian land tenure systems, were intended to support religious institutions and generate spiritual merit for the rulers. By exempting these lands from state taxes and administrative interference, the Satavahana kings institutionalized their religious patronage and facilitated the growth of powerful landed religious communities that played a vital role in local social and economic life.

**287.** (C) Kanishka
The Shaka Era, which begins in 78 CE, is traditionally and widely believed to have been founded by the Kushan emperor Kanishka. Although named after the Shakas, it likely marks the year of his accession to the throne and the beginning of his influential reign. This era became a standard chronological framework used in many Indian inscriptions and remains the basis for the modern Indian national calendar. Kanishka's legacy as a powerful and culturally significant ruler is underscored by the enduring use of this calendar.

**288.** (A) Interaction of local and Brahmanical ideas.
The social life depicted in Sangam literature shows a fascinating and complex interaction between indigenous local traditions and the gradual introduction of Brahmanical ideas. While local social structures and indigenous deities remained central, elements of Vedic culture, such as specific rituals and social categories, began to integrate into South Indian society. This period was marked by a synthesis of various cultural strands, where local customs and newly arrived traditions coexisted and influenced one another, shaping the unique cultural landscape of the ancient Tamil country.

**289.** (D) Decimal system and zero.
The most significant contribution of ancient Indian mathematics to global knowledge was the invention of the decimal place-value system and the revolutionary concept of zero. These foundational developments simplified numerical notation and made complex calculations far more efficient, paving the way for advanced algebra and other scientific modeling. The subsequent transmission of these concepts to the Islamic world and eventually to Europe transformed mathematics worldwide and remains the basis for the modern numerical system used in virtually all scientific and commercial activities today.

**290.** (B) Dependence on a strong, capable leader.
The rapid disintegration of the Mauryan Empire quickly after Ashoka's death illustrates the high degree of dependence on a strong and capable central leader for maintaining unity in such a vast state. Without the charismatic and effective authority of a powerful emperor, the centralized administrative system struggled to control distant provinces and prevent the rise of regional powers. This political collapse highlights the inherent challenges of managing a large imperial territory without consistently capable successors and the vulnerability of a highly centralized state to internal and external pressures.

**291.** (B) Chandragupta Maurya
Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire after overthrowing the Nanda dynasty. With the strategic assistance of Chanakya, he unified large parts of Northern India under a single administration. His reign established a powerful centralized state that paved the way for future rulers like Ashoka to expand the empire and promote cultural developments throughout the Indian subcontinent, marking a significant era in ancient political history.

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**292.** (B) Kautilya
Kautilya, also known as Chanakya or Vishnugupta, authored the Arthashastra, a comprehensive ancient Indian treatise on statecraft and economic policy. The work provides detailed guidelines on governance, military strategy, and the duties of a king. It remains a crucial source for understanding the administrative and political philosophy that underpinned the foundations of the Mauryan Empire during its early stages and influenced subsequent Indian political thought.

**293.** (C) Pataliputra
Pataliputra, located near modern-day Patna, served as the imperial capital of the Mauryan Empire. As a major political and economic hub, the city was strategically situated at the confluence of several rivers, facilitating trade and communication across the realm. Contemporary accounts describe Pataliputra as a magnificent city with sophisticated fortifications and urban planning, reflecting the empire's immense wealth and power during its peak under the Mauryan rulers.

**294.** (B) Ashoka
Ashoka transitioned to Buddhism following the immense suffering he witnessed during the Kalinga War. This transformation led him to adopt a policy of non-violence and compassion, which he promoted through his Dhamma. His patronage significantly influenced the spread of Buddhist teachings, not only within his vast empire but also to neighboring regions through diplomatic missions and various stone inscriptions, leaving a lasting impact on Asian spiritual history.

**295.** (B) Megasthenes
Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador sent by Seleucus Nicator to the court of Chandragupta Maurya in Pataliputra. His work, titled Indica, provides valuable insights into the social, political, and administrative structures of the Mauryan Empire. Although the original text is lost, fragments preserved by later Greek and Roman historians offer a unique outsider's perspective on the prosperity and governance of ancient India during the reign of its first great emperor.

**296.** (B) Ashoka
The policy of Dhamma was a central feature of Ashoka's reign, emphasizing moral conduct, social responsibility, and religious tolerance. It aimed to provide a common ethical framework for his diverse subjects, promoting peace and harmony throughout the empire. By engraving these principles on rocks and pillars, Ashoka sought to communicate directly with his people and institutionalize righteousness in daily life, transforming the state into a vehicle for moral governance.

**297.** (C) Brihadratha
Brihadratha was the final sovereign of the Mauryan dynasty, which had ruled for over a century. His reign ended when he was assassinated by his commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Shunga, during a military review around 185 BCE. This event led to the immediate collapse of Mauryan authority in Magadha and the establishment of the Shunga dynasty, marking a significant shift in the political landscape and the end of the first unified Indian empire.

**298.** (A) Pushyamitra Shunga
Pushyamitra Shunga founded the Shunga dynasty after overthrowing the last Mauryan king, Brihadratha. As a military leader of Brahmanical background, his rise to power is often associated with a revival of Vedic rituals and traditional social orders. Under his rule, the Shunga dynasty maintained control over central and eastern India while defending the northern borders against various foreign incursions, marking a new era of regional political and religious transition.

**299.** (A) Brahmi
Brahmi was the primary script used for most of Ashoka's inscriptions across the Indian subcontinent. This ancient writing system served as a medium for propagating the emperor's Dhamma and administrative decrees to his subjects. Deciphered in the nineteenth century, these inscriptions on rocks and pillars provide an essential historical record of Mauryan governance, ethics, and the extent of the empire's influence, serving as the ancestor to many modern Indian scripts.

NODIA

**300.** (B) Sarnath

The Lion Capital, which was chosen as the National Emblem of India, is located at Sarnath. Originally crowning a pillar erected by Ashoka, the sculpture commemorates the Buddha's first sermon delivered at this sacred site. It features four lions facing different directions, symbolizing power and courage, while the wheel below represents the spread of righteousness. Its sophisticated craftsmanship represents the height of Mauryan artistic achievement and its enduring legacy in Indian culture.

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power reflects the broader cultural interactions between ancient India and the Near East.

**248.** (A) Repulsion of Bactrian Greek invasions.
One of the principal military and political achievements of Pushyamitra Shunga was the successful repulsion of Bactrian Greek invasions that threatened the heartland of Northern India. Following the collapse of Mauryan authority, these Indo-Greek powers had begun to advance into the Gangetic valley. Pushyamitra's military leadership was crucial in checking their progress and maintaining the territorial integrity of Magadha, ensuring the preservation of indigenous cultural and political control during a volatile period of transition.

**249.** (C) Lead and Potin
The Satavahanas are uniquely known for issuing a large volume of coins made primarily from lead and potin, an alloy of copper, tin, and lead. While they also issued some silver coins, the widespread use of these base metals for their currency facilitated daily transactions across their vast territories in the Deccan. The use of lead and potin reflects the dynasty's pragmatic economic policies and the locally available resources, supporting a thriving urban and commercial life throughout their long reign.

**250.** (D) Astronomy
Astrology in ancient India reflects a significant contribution to the broader field of astronomy, as both disciplines were closely intertwined in ancient scientific thought. The systematic observation of planetary movements and celestial events for astrological purposes led to the development of sophisticated astronomical theories and mathematical models. Scholars like Varahamihira explored the relationships between the heavens and life on earth, contributing to a deep understanding of celestial mechanics and timekeeping that was central to ancient Indian scientific and cultural life.

**251.** (C) Rise of the Sassanian empire.
The decline of the Kushan Empire was partly driven by the rise of the Sassanian Empire in Persia during the third century CE. The Sassanians expanded eastward, successfully challenging Kushan authority in their western territories and reducing their influence to the northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent. This external pressure, coupled with the rise of local Indian powers like the Guptas, eventually led to the final disintegration of the Kushan state and the loss of its transcontinental trade monopoly.

**252.** (B) Plough agriculture
In the Sangam landscape classification, 'Marutam' refers to the fertile agricultural plains where the main economic activity was plough agriculture. This region was characterized by settled farming communities that utilized irrigation to cultivate rice and other crops. The surplus production from the Marutam lands supported the development of urban centers and provided the economic foundation for the southern kingdoms, making it a vital zone for the prosperity and social organization of ancient South Indian society.

**253.** (D) Power to extract resources and labor.
The use of regular taxes like 'Kara' and forced labor like 'Vishti' by the Mauryan state demonstrates its significant power to extract resources and labor from its subjects. This centralized control was essential for funding the empire's vast administrative bureaucracy and maintaining its large standing army. By institutionalizing these systems, the Mauryan state could manage large-scale public works and secure the financial stability necessary to govern a diverse and widespread territory effectively and assert its imperial authority.

**254.** (A) Manage a large empire effectively.
The Mauryan system of provincial administration was specifically designed to manage a large and diverse empire effectively. By dividing the territory into provinces governed by royal princes or high officials, the central authority in Pataliputra could maintain oversight over distant regions. This hierarchical structure facilitated communication, revenue collection, and the administration of justice across the realm. The system ensured that imperial policies were implemented locally, helping to preserve the political and territorial integrity of the vast Mauryan state.

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disposal.
III. It consisted only of immovable property like land.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) I only
(B) I and II only
(C) II and III only
(D) I, II and III

**11.** The term 'Dravida' in the context of ancient Indian architecture refers to a style predominantly found in which geographical area?
(A) The rugged Himalayan foothills of the North
(B) The fertile Indo-Gangetic plains of the center
(C) The arid desert regions of western Rajasthan
(D) The region south of the Krishna river valley

**12.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Samudragupta's conquests are elaborately detailed in the Allahabad Pillar inscription.
Reason (R): The Allahabad Pillar inscription was composed by his court poet, Harisena.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**13.** Which Gupta ruler is often associated with the 'Lichchhavi-dauhitra' title, highlighting his maternal connection?
(A) Chandragupta I
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Kumaragupta I

**14.** The existence of the Gupta ruler Ramgupta is primarily attested by which literary source?
(A) Mudrarakshasa
(B) Harshacharita
(C) Raghuvamsa
(D) Devichandraguptam

**15.** Match List I (Architectural Style) with List II (Characteristic Feature).
List I:
P. Nagara
Q. Dravida
R. Vesara
S. Memorial Stone
List II:
1. Hybrid or mixed style
2. Pyramidal tower or Vimana
3. Shikhara with a curvilinear outline
4. Commemoration of heroic death
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

**16.** Which Gupta emperor adopted the famous title of 'Vikramaditya'?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Kumaragupta I
(D) Skandagupta

NODIA

**17.** The Gupta-Vakataka relationship was significantly strengthened through a matrimonial alliance involving which Gupta princess?
(A) Kumaradevi
(B) Prabhavatigupta
(C) Dhruvadevi
(D) Anantadevi

**18.** Arrange the following Gupta rulers in the correct chronological order of their reign, from the earliest to the latest:
1. Skandagupta
2. Samudragupta
3. Chandragupta II
4. Kumaragupta I
(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 4, 3, 1
(D) 3, 2, 1, 4

**19.** The defeat of the Shaka Kshatrapas of Western India was a major achievement of which Gupta king?
(A) Chandragupta I
(B) Samudragupta
(C) Chandragupta II

(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**108.** THE Vesara architectural style reached its culmination under the patronage of which two dynasties?
(A) Pallavas and Cholas
(B) Later Chalukyas (of Kalyani) and Hoysalas
(C) Palas and Senas
(D) Guptas and Vakatakas

**109.** Which dynasty is associated with the 'four styles' of temple development named after their kings: Mahendra style, Mamalla style, Rajasimha style, and Nandivarman style?
(A) Chola
(B) Chalukya
(C) Pallava
(D) Rashtrakuta

**110.** Which of the following literary works provides evidence for the rule of Ramgupta?
(A) Harshacharita by Banabhatta
(B) Raghuvamsa by Kalidasa
(C) Allahabad Prashasti by Harisena
(D) Devichandraguptam by Vishakhadatta

**111.** Identify the correct statement regarding Samudragupta's conquests.
(A) He followed a policy of 'Grahana-moksha-anugraha' towards southern kings.
(B) He was defeated by the Vakataka ruler Pravarasena II.
(C) He annexed all the kingdoms of South India into his empire.
(D) He completely ignored the forest kingdoms (atavika-rajas).

**112.** The term 'Agrahara' refers to:
(A) A royal central treasury for storing state taxes.
(B) A land grant given to learned Brahman scholars.
(C) A residential quarter for elite military soldiers.
(D) A professional tax levied on skilled local artisans.

**113.** Identify the incorrect pair among the following dynasties and their respective capitals.
(A) Pallavas - Kanchi
(B) Rashtrakutas - Vengi
(C) Chalukyas of Vatapi - Badami
(D) Cholas - Tanjore

**114.** THE reign of which Gupta emperor saw the beginning of the decline of the empire due to repeated Huna invasions?
(A) Skandagupta
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Kumaragupta I
(D) Budhagupta

**115.** Consider the following statements regarding the culture during the Pallava period:
I. They developed the Dravidian style of temple architecture.
II. The Nayanars (Shaiva saints) and Alvars (Vaishnava saints) led the Bhakti movement during this period.
III. Sanskrit was the sole official language, and Tamil was not given any patronage.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I only
(D) I, II and III

**116.** THE naval supremacy of the Cholas was most prominently displayed during the reign of:
(A) Vijayalaya and Aditya I
(B) Parantaka I
(C) Kulottunga I
(D) Rajaraja I and Rajendra I

**117.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Harsha's empire, though vast, was not as centralized as the Mauryan empire.
Reason (R): Harsha's administrative system relied heavily on a feudal structure with many subordinate kings and chieftains.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**31.** The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is a classic example of which period's art and architecture?
(A) Gupta
(B) Mauryan
(C) Kushan
(D) Chola

**32.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Gupta period is often called the 'Golden Age' of ancient India.
Reason (R): This era witnessed remarkable achievements in science, literature, art, and architecture.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**33.** The accounts of the Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien provide valuable information about the society and administration during the reign of which Gupta king?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Kumaragupta I
(D) Skandagupta

**34.** The Gupta period's contact with Southeast Asia was primarily driven by what factors?
(A) Missionary activities and trade
(B) Military conquests and colonization
(C) Seeking refuge from Huna invasions
(D) Establishment of agricultural settlements

**35.** Match List I (Gupta Era Text) with List II (Author/Subject).
List I:
P. Aryabhatiya
Q. Raghuvamsa
R. Mrichchhakatika
S. Kamasutra
List II:
1. Vatsyayana
2. Shudraka
3. Kalidasa
4. Aryabhata
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

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**36.** Which dynasty did Harshavardhana belong to?
(A) Gupta
(B) Maukhari
(C) Maitraka
(D) Pushyabhuti (Vardhana)

**37.** What was the initial capital of Harshavardhana's kingdom before he shifted it to Kannauj?
(A) Pataliputra
(B) Ujjain
(C) Thanesar
(D) Vallabhi

**38.** The famous biography of Harshavardhana, the 'Harshacharita', was written by whom?
(A) Kalidasa
(B) Banabhatta
(C) Hiuen Tsang
(D) Ravikirti

**39.** Harshavardhana's southward expansion was famously halted on the banks of the Narmada river by which Chalukya ruler?
(A) Pulakeshin I
(B) Kirtivarman I
(C) Vikramaditya I
(D) Pulakeshin II

**40.** Consider the following statements about the administration under Harshavardhana:
Statement I: Harsha personally inspected the administration by travelling extensively through his empire.
Statement II: The penal code under Harsha was extremely lenient, with no instances of capital punishment.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**41.** Harsha was initially a worshipper of Shiva but later inclined towards which other religion?
(A) Jainism
(B) Ajivikism
(C) Mahayana Buddhism
(D) Vaishnavism

(D) Skandagupta

**20.** Prabhavatigupta, the daughter of Chandragupta II, was married into which contemporary dynasty?
(A) Kadamba
(B) Naga
(C) Rashtrakuta
(D) Vakataka

**21.** Which Gupta ruler is credited with repelling the first major Huna invasion?
(A) Chandragupta II
(B) Kumaragupta I
(C) Skandagupta
(D) Budhagupta

**22.** Consider the following statements regarding the Gupta ruler Kumaragupta I:
Statement I: Kumaragupta I performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice, as evidenced by his coins.
Statement II: The reign of Kumaragupta I was largely peaceful and marked by political stability.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**23.** During the Gupta period, the provincial governors were often known by what title?
(A) Samaharta
(B) Sannidhata
(C) Rajuka
(D) Uparika

**24.** What was the most common form of taxation during the Gupta period?
(A) A share of the agricultural produce, typically one-sixth.
(B) A specific trade tax levied on all imported luxury goods.
(C) A religious tithe paid directly to the king's own temple.
(D) A standard poll tax collected from every adult male resident.

**25.** Identify the correct statement regarding the administrative roles during the Gupta period.
(A) Mahadandanayaka - Chief Judicial Officer
(B) Kumaramatya - A cadre of high-ranking officials
(C) Vishayapati - Head of a province (Bhukti)
(D) Sandhivigrahika - Minister of peace and war

**26.** Which of the following was NOT a major feature of social life during the Gupta age?
(A) The complete abolition of the practice of untouchability.
(B) The strengthening of the varna system.
(C) The improved status of women compared to the post-Vedic era.
(D) The proliferation of castes and sub-castes.

**27.** Consider the following statements about the economy during the Gupta period:
I. Gold coins were abundantly issued, indicating a prosperous economy.
II. Trade with the Roman Empire declined, but trade with Southeast Asia flourished.
III. The guild system (shrenis) for artisans and merchants was highly developed.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I and III only
(D) I, II and III

**28.** The famous Ajanta and Ellora caves, known for their murals and sculptures, saw significant patronage during the Gupta and which other contemporary dynasty's rule?
(A) Pallava
(B) Vakataka
(C) Chola
(D) Pala

**29.** Which of the following best describes the religious life during the Gupta period?
(A) Buddhism became the sole state religion.
(B) Jainism witnessed its greatest expansion period.
(C) Brahmanical revival occurred with the rise of Bhakti.
(D) There was a decline in all religious activity.

**30.** The renowned Sanskrit poet and playwright Kalidasa is traditionally associated with the court of which Gupta emperor?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Skandagupta
(C) Kumaragupta I
(D) Chandragupta II

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**54.** The last great ruler of the Sena dynasty, under whose patronage Jayadeva wrote the 'Gita Govinda', was?
(A) Vijaya Sena
(B) Lakshmana Sena
(C) Ballala Sena
(D) Hemanta Sena

**55.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Pala rulers maintained strong cultural and commercial ties with Southeast Asian kingdoms like the Srivijaya empire.
Reason (R): Both the Palas and the rulers of Srivijaya were followers and patrons of Mahayana Buddhism.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**56.** The Chalukyas of Vatapi are also known by what other name?
(A) Western Chalukyas
(B) Eastern Chalukyas
(C) Chalukyas of Vengi
(D) Chalukyas of Kalyani

**57.** The Chalukya capital Vatapi is modern-day Badami, located in which Indian state?
(A) Tamil Nadu
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Karnataka
(D) Maharashtra

**58.** Identify the correct pair of Chalukya branches and their respective capitals.
(A) Chalukyas of Vatapi - Badami
(B) Chalukyas of Vatapi - Vengi
(C) Chalukyas of Kalyani - Manyakheta
(D) Chalukyas of Vengi - Vatapi

**59.** The famous Aihole inscription, which eulogizes the victories of Pulakeshin II, was composed by which poet?
(A) Banabhatta
(B) Harisena
(C) Dandin
(D) Ravikirti

**60.** Match List I (Dynasty) with List II (Region of Influence).
List I:
P. Pala
Q. Varman
R. Karkota
S. Chalukya
List II:
1. Kashmir
2. Kamarupa
3. Bengal
4. Vatapi
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

**61.** Which Chalukya branch is known as the Eastern Chalukyas?
(A) Chalukyas of Vatapi
(B) Chalukyas of Kalyani
(C) Chalukyas of Vengi
(D) Chalukyas of Gujarat

**62.** The architectural style developed under the Chalukyas of Vatapi is considered a precursor to which major hybrid style?
(A) Nagara
(B) Dravida
(C) Mauryan
(D) Vesara

**63.** The great Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal was built by a queen of which Chalukya king to commemorate his victory over the Pallavas?
(A) Vikramaditya II
(B) Pulakeshin II
(C) Vikramaditya I
(D) Kirtivarman II

**64.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement regarding Chalukya administration?
(A) The kingdom was divided into provinces called Mandalas or Rashtras.
(B) The administrative system was highly centralized with no local autonomy.
(C) The village was the basic unit of administration.
(D) The rulers frequently used titles like

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**42.** The great quinquennial assembly (Moksha Parishad) organized by Harsha, which was attended by Hiuen Tsang, was held at which location?
(A) Prayag (Allahabad)
(B) Thanesar
(C) Pataliputra
(D) Kannauj

**43.** Which renowned ancient university received significant royal patronage from Harshavardhana and became a major center for Mahayana Buddhist learning?
(A) Taxila
(B) Vikramashila
(C) Vallabhi
(D) Nalanda

**44.** Which of the following was NOT a part of Harshavardhana's empire at its peak?
(A) Thanesar
(B) The region south of the Narmada river
(C) Kannauj
(D) Parts of modern-day Bengal and Odisha

**45.** Consider the following statements about the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang's account of India:
I. He described a flourishing caste system and the prevalence of untouchability.
II. He noted the security of roads and the absence of robbery.
III. He praised the educational system, particularly the functioning of Nalanda.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I only
(B) I and III only
(C) II and III only
(D) I, II and III

**46.** The Karkota dynasty was a prominent ruling house in which region of India?
(A) Bengal
(B) Kamrupa (Assam)
(C) Gujarat
(D) Kashmir

**47.** The Pala dynasty, which ruled over Bengal and Bihar, were great patrons of which religion?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Vaishnavism
(D) Jainism

**48.** The famous Vikramashila University was founded by which Pala ruler?
(A) Gopala
(B) Dharmapala
(C) Devapala
(D) Mahipala I

**49.** Arrange the following dynasties of Kashmir in their correct chronological sequence:
1. Lohara
2. Karkota
3. Utpala
(A) 1, 2, 3
(B) 2, 3, 1
(C) 3, 1, 2
(D) 2, 1, 3

**50.** The Varman dynasty, a contemporary of the Guptas and Harsha, ruled over which kingdom in Eastern India?
(A) Kamarupa (Assam)
(B) Odra (Orissa)
(C) Vanga (Bengal)
(D) Magadha (Bihar)

**51.** The Sena dynasty, which succeeded the Palas in Bengal, were patrons of which religious tradition?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Jainism
(C) Brahmanical Hinduism, especially Vaishnavism
(D) Tantrism exclusively

**52.** Lalitaditya Muktapida, one of the most powerful rulers of Kashmir, belonged to which dynasty?
(A) Utpala
(B) Lohara
(C) Varman
(D) Karkota

**53.** The 'Tripartite Struggle' for the control of Kannauj involved the Palas, the Gurjara-Pratiharas, and which other major power?
(A) Chalukyas
(B) Cholas
(C) Rashtrakutas
(D) Pallavas

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(D) A is false but R is true.

**76.** The unique style of rock-cut temples, known as 'ratha' temples, at Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) were constructed under the patronage of which dynasty?
(A) Chola
(B) Pallava
(C) Pandya
(D) Rashtrakuta

**77.** Which of the following is a prominent feature of Pallava art and architecture?
(A) The exclusive use of brick and mortar
(B) The construction of large pyramidal gopurams
(C) The transition from rock-cut to structural temples
(D) The absence of any religious sculptures

**78.** The great Sanskrit scholar Dandin, author of 'Dasakumaracharita', is believed to have adorned the court of which Pallava ruler?
(A) Mahendravarman I
(B) Narasimhavarman I
(C) Nandivarman II
(D) Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)

**79.** Which of the following is NOT one of the great Pallava rulers?
(A) Rajendra Chola
(B) Mahendravarman I
(C) Narasimhavarman I
(D) Narasimhavarman II

**80.** The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram, a structural stone temple, was built by which Pallava king?
(A) Mahendravarman I
(B) Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)
(C) Narasimhavarman I
(D) Paramesvaravarman I

**81.** In Pallava administration, what was the role of the 'sabha' and 'ur'?
(A) They were types of land taxes.
(B) They were village assemblies with administrative functions.
(C) They were military divisions.
(D) They were titles for court officials.

**82.** The Chola dynasty rose to prominence by overthrowing the feudatories of which preceding dynasty?
(A) Pallavas
(B) Rashtrakutas
(C) Cheras
(D) Pandyas

**83.** The founder of the imperial Chola line, who captured Tanjore (Thanjavur) in the mid-9th century, was:
(A) Rajaraja I
(B) Rajendra I
(C) Vijayalaya
(D) Aditya I

**84.** Consider the following statements about the Chola empire:
I. Rajaraja I was the first to execute the naval expedition to Sri Lanka.
II. The Chola administration was highly centralized with no local government.
III. The Brihadeshwara temple at Tanjore was built by Rajendra I.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I only
(B) II and III only
(C) I and III only
(D) I, II and III

**85.** Which Chola king assumed the title 'Gangaikondachola' and built a new capital called Gangaikondacholapuram?
(A) Rajaraja I
(B) Kulottunga I
(C) Rajendra I
(D) Rajadhiraja I

**86.** The most remarkable and unique feature of Chola administration was:
(A) The creation of a secretive internal espionage system.
(B) The system of autonomous village self-government.
(C) The development of a multi-tiered provincial structure.
(D) The direct personal appointment of all local officials.

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**87.** Chola art is particularly famous for its exquisite bronze sculptures, the most famous of which is the icon of:
(A) Vishnu Anantasayana
(B) Ganesha
(C) Buddha in meditation
(D) Shiva as Nataraja

**88.** The Uttaramerur inscription provides detailed information about the functioning of the village assembly or 'sabha' under which dynasty?
(A) Chola
(B) Pallava
(C) Pandya
(D) Chalukya

**89.** Match List I (Ruler) with List II (Dynasty).
List I:
P. Amoghavarsha I
Q. Narasimhavarman I
R. Dharmapala
S. Rajaraja I
List II:
1. Pala
2. Chola
3. Rashtrakuta
4. Pallava
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

**90.** The term 'Mandalam' in Chola administration referred to what?
(A) A province
(B) A district
(C) A village
(D) A city council

**91.** Which of the following dynasties had its capital at Devagiri (later Daulatabad)?
(A) Hoysala
(B) Kakatiya
(C) Kadamba
(D) Yadava

**92.** The Hoysala dynasty, famous for its intricately carved temples, had its capital at:
(A) Devagiri
(B) Dwarsamudra (Halebidu)
(C) Warangal
(D) Banavasi

**93.** The Kakatiya dynasty, with its capital at Warangal, ruled over which modern-day region?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Telangana/Andhra Pradesh
(D) Kerala

**94.** The Kadamba dynasty, considered the first indigenous kingdom to use Kannada as an administrative language, was founded by Mayurasharman with its capital at:
(A) Talakad
(B) Kolar
(C) Manyakheta
(D) Banavasi

**95.** The Western Ganga dynasty ruled a large part of modern-day Karnataka with their capital initially at Kolar and later at:
(A) Talakad
(B) Dwarsamudra
(C) Badami
(D) Vengi

**96.** Identify the incorrect statement about the other kingdoms of Dakshinapatha.
(A) Hoysalas are known for their unique star-shaped temple plans.
(B) The Ganga dynasty was primarily established in the Kalinga region.
(C) Yadavas of Devgiri were eventually subjugated by the Delhi Sultanate.
(D) Kakatiya ruler Rudramadevi was one of the few queens to rule in Indian history.

**97.** The famous Gommateshwara monolithic statue at Shravanabelagola was commissioned by a minister of which dynasty?
(A) Hoysala
(B) Western Ganga
(C) Kadamba
(D) Chola

**98.** Which of the following is the most distinctive feature of Hoysala temple architecture?
(A) The use of soft soapstone allowing for intricate carving
(B) Large pyramidal gopurams
(C) Monolithic rathas

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(D) Plain and unadorned exterior walls

**99.** The 'Thousand Pillar Temple' at Hanamakonda is a fine example of the architecture of which dynasty?
(A) Yadava
(B) Hoysala
(C) Kakatiya
(D) Pallava

**100.** Consider the following statements regarding the rulers of the Gupta empire:
I. Samudragupta's southern campaign involved defeating and then reinstating several kings.
II. Chandragupta II expanded the empire by conquering the Western Kshatrapas.
III. Skandagupta's reign was marked by struggles against the Pushyamitras and the Hunas.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I and III only
(D) I, II and III

**101.** Arrange the following events in the life of Harshavardhana in their correct chronological order:
1. Accession to the throne of Thanesar
2. Shifting of capital to Kannauj
3. Defeat at the hands of Pulakeshin II
4. The Prayag Assembly attended by Hiuen Tsang
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 1, 3, 4
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

**102.** Which of the following was NOT a major port for foreign trade during the Gupta period?
(A) Tamralipti
(B) Indraprastha
(C) Bharukachchha (Broach)
(D) Sopara

**103.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Gupta-Vakataka relations were crucial for the political stability of the Deccan in the 4th and 5th centuries CE.
Reason (R): The matrimonial alliance between the two dynasties gave the Guptas a strategic advantage in their campaign against the Western Kshatrapas.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**104.** The famous Nalanda University was a great center of learning, especially for which school of thought?
(A) Mahayana Buddhism
(B) Hinayana Buddhism
(C) Advaita Vedanta
(D) Svetambara Jainism

**105.** Match List I (Dynasty) with List II (A Prominent Ruler).
List I:
P. Yadava
Q. Hoysala
R. Kakatiya
S. Western Ganga
List II:
1. Rudramadevi
2. Vishnuvardhana
3. Ramachandra
4. Durvinita
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

**106.** In the context of Gupta age governance, the term 'Bhukti' referred to what?
(A) A province
(B) A district
(C) A village
(D) A group of villages

**107.** Consider the following statements regarding the religious affiliations of the ruling dynasties of medieval Bengal:
Statement I: The Pala rulers of Bengal were devout Shaivites.
Statement II: The Sena rulers who succeeded the Palas were great patrons of Vaishnavism.

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'Satyashraya' and 'Sri-prithvi-vallabha'.

**65.** The founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty of Manyakheta, who overthrew the Chalukyas of Vatapi, was:
(A) Krishna I
(B) Dantidurga
(C) Govinda III
(D) Amoghavarsha I

**66.** Consider the following statements about the rule of the Rashtrakutas:
I. They were major participants in the tripartite struggle for Kannauj.
II. Their capital was located at Vengi in Andhra.
III. They patronized both Shaivism and Jainism.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I only
(B) I and III only
(C) II and III only
(D) I, II and III

**67.** The magnificent rock-cut Kailasa temple at Ellora was constructed under the patronage of which Rashtrakuta king?
(A) Dantidurga
(B) Dhruva Dharavarsha
(C) Krishna I
(D) Amoghavarsha I

**68.** Who was the most powerful and long-reigning Rashtrakuta ruler, known for his literary pursuits and patronage of Jainism?
(A) Govinda III
(B) Indra III
(C) Krishna III
(D) Amoghavarsha I (Nripatunga)

**69.** The Solanki dynasty, also known as the Chaulukyas of Gujarat, had their capital at:
(A) Vatapi
(B) Vallabhi
(C) Anhilwara (Patan)
(D) Dwarka

**70.** The famous Sun Temple at Modhera and the Dilwara Jain temples at Mount Abu were built during the rule of which dynasty?
(A) Rashtrakuta
(B) Solanki (Chaulukya)
(C) Pala
(D) Chola

**71.** Which Solanki ruler of Gujarat is credited with defeating Mahmud of Ghazni's forces and rebuilding the Somnath temple?
(A) Mularaja I
(B) Jayasimha Siddharaja
(C) Kumarapala
(D) Bhima I

**72.** Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtrakuta dynasty:
Statement I: The Rashtrakuta administration was organized on the lines of Gupta and Chalukya administrations.
Statement II: Rashtrakuta art is best exemplified by the rock-cut architecture at Ellora and Elephanta.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**73.** The Pallava dynasty ruled a significant part of Southern India with their capital at:
(A) Madurai
(B) Tanjore (Thanjavur)
(C) Kanchipuram
(D) Vengi

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**74.** The Pallava king Mahendravarman I was initially a Jaina but later converted to Shaivism under the influence of which saint?
(A) Appar
(B) Sambandar
(C) Sundarar
(D) Manikkavadocakar

**75.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Pallava king Narasimhavarman I earned the title 'Vatapikonda'.
Reason (R): He captured and sacked the Chalukyan capital of Vatapi in revenge for his father's defeat.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.

**118.** THE Utpala dynasty of Kashmir was founded by:
(A) Lalitaditya Muktapida
(B) Avantivarman
(C) Didda
(D) Samgramaraja

**119.** What was the most significant achievement of the Chalukya king Vikramaditya II?
(A) Defeating Harshavardhana
(B) Founding the Chalukya kingdom
(C) Establishing the Vesara style of architecture
(D) Repetitive invasions of the Pallava capital Kanchi

**120.** Match List I (Temple/Monument) with List II (Location).
List I:
P. Kailasa Temple
Q. Brihadeshwara Temple
R. Sun Temple
S. Shore Temple
List II:
1. Modhera
2. Mamallapuram
3. Tanjore
4. Ellora
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

**121.** THE Kadamba dynasty, an important power in post-Gupta Karnataka, was founded by:
(A) Kakusthavarman
(B) Shivaskandavarman
(C) Mayurasharman
(D) Vishnuvardhana

**122.** Which of the following statements about the Solanki (Chaulukya) dynasty of Gujarat is false?
(A) They were constantly at war with the Palas of Bengal.
(B) They were patrons of both Jainism and Shaivism.
(C) Their capital was Anhilwara (Patan).
(D) THE famous minister-scholar Hemachandra lived during their rule.

**123.** THE 'Dharmashastra' texts mention 'Stridhana' as:
(A) A tax paid by women
(B) A dowry given by the bride's family
(C) A fine for crimes against women
(D) A woman's own property

**124.** THE political history of the Yadavas of Devgiri came to an end with their subjugation by the forces of:
(A) THE Cholas
(B) THE Delhi Sultanate
(C) THE Hoysalas
(D) THE Bahmani Kingdom

**125.** THE Varman dynasty of Kamarupa finds mention in which famous inscription of the Gupta period?
(A) Junagadh Rock Inscription
(B) Bhitari Pillar Inscription
(C) Allahabad Pillar Inscription
(D) Mehrauli Iron Pillar Inscription

**126.** Arrange the following dynasties in the correct chronological order of their rise to prominence:
1. Chola
2. Pallava
3. Rashtrakuta
4. Chalukya of Vatapi
(A) 4, 2, 3, 1
(B) 2, 4, 3, 1
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 2, 3, 4, 1

**127.** Which of the following best describes the economic life during Harsha's reign as per Hiuen Tsang's account?
(A) An agrarian-focused economy with localized trade and some decline in urban centers.
(B) A highly urbanized commercial economy with widespread use of precious metal coins.
(C) An economy almost entirely dependent on international maritime trade with imperial Rome.
(D) A primitive economic system where the barter of goods was the only means of transaction.

**128.** Vikramashila University, founded by Dharmapala, was a famous center for which branch of study?
(A) Vedic rituals

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Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I and III only
(D) I, II and III

**193.** THE Gommateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola is associated with which dynasty?
(A) Hoysala
(B) Western Ganga
(C) Kadamba
(D) Yadava

**194.** THE title 'Gangaikonda' was adopted by Rajendra Chola I after his victorious expedition to:
(A) THE Ganges valley
(B) Sri Lanka
(C) THE Malay Peninsula
(D) THE Narmada river

**195.** THE rule of the queen-regent Prabhavatigupta on behalf of her minor sons marks an important phase in the history of which dynasty?
(A) Gupta
(B) Pallava
(C) Vakataka
(D) Chalukya

**196.** THE Chalukyas of Vengi are also known as:
(A) Western Chalukyas
(B) Northern Chalukyas
(C) Southern Chalukyas
(D) Eastern Chalukyas

**197.** Which of the following is NOT a feature of social life in the Gupta period?
(A) THE caste system became more rigid.
(B) THE untouchables (Chandalas) were segregated and lived outside the main city.
(C) THE position of women improved significantly with total gender equality.
(D) THE practice of early marriage for girls became common.

**198.** THE famous battle between Harsha and Pulakeshin II took place on the banks of which river?
(A) Godavari
(B) Narmada
(C) Krishna
(D) Tapi

**199.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE Pala rulers were great patrons of Buddhist monasteries and universities.
Reason (R): THE Palas founded and endowed institutions like Vikramashila and revived Nalanda.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**200.** THE Solanki dynasty's rule in Gujarat ended with their defeat at the hands of:
(A) THE Vaghelas and later the Delhi Sultanate
(B) Mahmud of Ghazni
(C) Muhammad Ghori
(D) THE Rashtrakutas

**201.** Match List I (Dynasty) with List II (Architectural Contribution).
List I:
P. Pallava
Q. Chola
R. Rashtrakuta
S. Hoysala
List II:
1. Star-shaped temples with intricate carving (Belur, Halebidu)
2. Rock-cut Rathas (Mahabalipuram)
3. Monolithic Kailasa Temple (Ellora)
4. Grand structural temples with Vimanas (Tanjore)
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**202.** THE most important source for the history of the Karkota, Utpala, and Lohara dynasties of Kashmir is:
(A) Rajatarangini
(B) Harshacharita
(C) Si-Yu-Ki
(D) Gita Govinda

**139.** THE Kakatiya queen Rudramadevi ruled in the 13th century and her reign was described by which famous European traveler?
(A) Fa-Hien
(B) Hiuen Tsang
(C) Al-Biruni
(D) Marco Polo

**140.** Match List I (Ancient University) with List II (Founder/Patron Dynasty).
List I:
P. Nalanda
Q. Vikramashila
R. Vallabhi
S. Kanchi
List II:
1. Pala Dynasty
2. Gupta Dynasty
3. Pallava Dynasty
4. Maitraka Dynasty
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

**141.** THE administration of the Chola empire was divided into Mandalams (provinces), Valanadus (divisions), Nadus (districts), and:
(A) Bhuktis (regions)
(B) Vishayas (zones)
(C) Kurrams (groups of villages)
(D) Ganas (assemblies)

**142.** THE initial capital of the Vardhana dynasty was:
(A) Kannauj
(B) Pataliputra
(C) Ujjain
(D) Thanesar

**143.** Which of the following dynasties did NOT belong to the 'Dakshinapatha' region?
(A) Varmana of Kamrupa
(B) Yadava of Devgiri
(C) Hoysala of Dwarsamudra
(D) Kakatiya of Warangal

**144.** THE contact between India and China during the Gupta period was primarily facilitated by:
(A) Constant Gupta military expeditions into the heart of China.
(B) THE frequent travels of Buddhist monks and wandering scholars.
(C) Chinese merchants establishing large permanent colonies in India.
(D) THE formal establishment of a direct common territorial border.

**145.** Arrange the following historical figures in the correct chronological order of their reign:
1. Harshavardhana
2. Chandragupta II
3. Pulakeshin II
4. Mahendravarman I
(A) 2, 1, 4, 3
(B) 2, 4, 3, 1
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

**146.** Consider the following statements about the Pallava ruler Mahendravarman I:
I. He was a great patron of arts and architecture, pioneering rock-cut cave temples.
II. He authored the Sanskrit play 'Mattavilasa Prahasana'.
III. He was decisively victorious in his long conflict with the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I only
(D) I, II and III

**147.** Which Rashtrakuta ruler was known by the title 'Nripatunga' and was the author of 'Kavirajamarga', the earliest available work on poetics in Kannada?
(A) Dantidurga
(B) Krishna I
(C) Amoghavarsha I
(D) Dhruva

**148.** THE Gung (Ganga) dynasty is particularly remembered for its significant contribution to which religion in Karnataka?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Vaishnavism
(D) Jainism

**149.** Identify the correct statement about the religious life during the Gupta period.

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(B) Vajrayana (Tantric) Buddhism
(C) Hinayana Buddhism
(D) Advaita philosophy

**129.** THE Lohara dynasty succeeded the Utpala dynasty in which region?
(A) Kamarupa
(B) Kashmir
(C) Bengal
(D) Gujarat

**130.** THE architectural achievements of the Chalukyas of Vatapi are best seen at which group of sites?
(A) Aihole, Badami, and Pattadakal
(B) Kanchi and Mahabalipuram
(C) Ellora and Elephanta
(D) Tanjore and Gangaikondacholapuram

**131.** Consider the following statements about Chola art:
I. It is renowned for its magnificent bronze sculptures.
II. THE Nataraja icon is a prime example of Chola bronze casting.
III. Chola paintings are found on the walls of the Brihadeshwara temple.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I only
(D) I, II and III

**132.** THE term 'memorial stones' (Viragal or Mastikal) commemorates:
(A) THE coronation of a new king
(B) THE construction of a new temple
(C) THE grant of land to a Brahmin
(D) THE death of a hero in battle or a woman committing Sati

**133.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE Rashtrakutas were constantly engaged in a tripartite struggle for the control of Kannauj.
Reason (R): Control over Kannauj was a symbol of imperial sovereignty in North India during that period.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**134.** Which of the following is a key feature of the 'Nagara' style temple?
(A) A flat roof
(B) A beehive-shaped tower called Shikhara
(C) A pyramidal tower called Vimana
(D) An octagonal base plan

**135.** THE great Hoysala ruler who was a patron of Vaishnavism and built the Chennakeshava temple at Belur was:
(A) Ballala II
(B) Narasimha III
(C) Vinayaditya
(D) Vishnuvardhana

**136.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding the relationship between the Gupta and Vakataka dynasties.
(A) THE Vakatakas were eventually annexed and absorbed into the Gupta empire.
(B) It was cemented by the marriage of Prabhavatigupta to a Vakataka king.
(C) THE Vakatakas ruled over a large portion of the Deccan.
(D) THE alliance helped Chandragupta II in his war against the Shakas.

**137.** THE Sena dynasty of Bengal is known for its patronage of Sanskrit literature. Who among the following was a famous poet in the court of Lakshmana Sena?
(A) Kalidasa
(B) Banabhatta
(C) Jayadeva
(D) Bhavabhuti

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**138.** THE Eastern Chalukyas ruled from their capital at:
(A) Vengi
(B) Vatapi (Badami)
(C) Kalyani (Basavakalyan)
(D) Manyakheta (Malkhed)

P. Hoysala
Q. Kakatiya
R. Yadava
S. Pallava

List II:

1. Kanchi
2. Devagiri
3. Warangal
4. Dwarsamudra

(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

**161.** What was the 'Vesara' style?
(A) A style of painting popular in the Gupta era
(B) A hybrid style of temple architecture combining Nagara and Dravida features
(C) A type of land grant given to soldiers
(D) A literary genre developed in the court of Harsha

**162.** THE 'Harshacharita' by Banabhatta is best described as a:
(A) Historical biography
(B) Fictional novel
(C) Religious text
(D) Legal treatise

**163.** Which dynasty succeeded the Palas in Bengal and Bihar?
(A) THE Karkotas
(B) THE Varmans
(C) THE Senas
(D) THE Guptas

**164.** Consider the following statements about the political history of the Rashtrakutas:
I. THE dynasty was founded by Dantidurga.
II. They were overthrown by the Later Chalukyas of Kalyani.
III. They remained confined to the Deccan and never attempted to expand northwards.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I only
(D) I, II and III

**165.** THE term 'Dakshinapatha' in ancient Indian geography and history generally refers to:
(A) THE trade route connecting to the Far East
(B) THE region around the Ganges delta
(C) THE entire Indian subcontinent south of the Vindhyas
(D) THE land route to Central Asia

**166.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE Gupta period saw flourishing relations between India and South-East Asia.
Reason (R): This contact was primarily driven by the spread of Buddhism and Hinduism, alongside vigorous maritime trade.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**167.** Identify the incorrect pair regarding achievements during the Gupta period.
(A) Aryabhata - Astronomy and Mathematics
(B) Kalidasa - Sanskrit drama and poetry
(C) Deogarh Temple - Temple architecture
(D) Varahamihira - Medical science

**168.** THE tripartite struggle was fought over the control of which strategically important city?
(A) Kannauj
(B) Pataliputra
(C) Ujjain
(D) Thanesar

**169.** THE Pallava king Narasimhavarman I founded the city of Mamallapuram, also known as:
(A) Kanchipuram
(B) Vatapipura
(C) Mahabalipuram
(D) Gangaikondacholapuram

**170.** Which of the following is a characteristic of Chola religious life?
(A) Dominance of Shaivism with notable tolerance towards other sects.
(B) Exclusive patronage and state sponsorship of Jainism.
(C) Systematic state persecution of all non-Shaivite sects.
(D) THE rise of Mahayana Buddhism as the

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(B) Hemanta Sena
(C) Ballala Sena
(D) Lakshmana Sena

**215.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE Hoysala temples are known for their extremely detailed and ornate carvings.
Reason (R): THE use of soft chloritic schist (soapstone) as the primary building material allowed sculptors to achieve this high level of intricacy.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**216.** THE concept of 'Stridhana' indicates that in ancient India:
(A) Women had absolute right over certain types of property.
(B) Women had no property rights whatsoever.
(C) All property was held jointly by husband and wife.
(D) Property could only be inherited by male heirs.

**217.** THE Chalukyas of Kalyani succeeded which major dynasty in the Deccan?
(A) THE Pallavas
(B) THE Cholas
(C) THE Rashtrakutas
(D) THE Vakatakas

**218.** THE practice of land grants to Brahmins (Brahmadeya) and temples became more widespread during which period?
(A) THE Post-Gupta period of administrative decentralization.
(B) THE Mauryan period of highly centralized imperial rule.
(C) THE Early Vedic period of pastoral tribal organization.
(D) THE Indus Valley Civilization period of urban city planning.

**219.** THE 'Mattavilasa Prahasana', a Sanskrit farce, was written by which royal author?
(A) Harshavardhana
(B) Amoghavarsha I
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Mahendravarman I Pallava

**220.** THE great Buddhist university of Vikramashila was located in the modern state of:
(A) West Bengal
(B) Bihar
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Odisha

**221.** Which Chola ruler completed the conquest of Sri Lanka, which was initiated by his father Rajaraja I?
(A) Aditya I
(B) Parantaka I
(C) Rajendra I
(D) Kulottunga I

**222.** THE Aihole inscription, a key source for the history of the Chalukyas of Vatapi, is written in which script and language?
(A) Brahmi script, Pali language
(B) Tamil script, Tamil language
(C) Devanagari script, Hindi language
(D) Sanskrit language, a southern Brahmi script

**223.** Who was the founder of the Utpala dynasty of Kashmir?
(A) Avantivarman
(B) Lalitaditya
(C) Durlabhavardhana
(D) Sangramaraja

**224.** Which of the following is NOT a major ruler of the Chola dynasty?
(A) Rajaraja I
(B) Vishnuvardhana
(C) Rajendra I
(D) Kulottunga I

**225.** THE transition from rock-cut architecture to structural temples is a significant contribution of which dynasty?
(A) THE Guptas
(B) THE Pallavas
(C) THE Mauryas
(D) THE Cholas

**226.** Match List I (Book) with List II (Broad Subject).

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characterized by intricate carvings.
III. Their most famous ruler was Rajaraja I.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) III only
(D) I, II and III

**182.** THE term 'Bhukti' in Gupta administration corresponds to a modern-day:
(A) District
(B) State or Province
(C) Tehsil or Taluka
(D) Village

**183.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE Pallava period was marked by a great religious revival of Brahmanical Hinduism in the South.
Reason (R): THE Bhakti movement, led by the Nayanars and Alvars, flourished and gained royal patronage during this time.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**184.** THE Kadamba kingdom was an important power in the region of modern-day:
(A) Karnataka
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Kerala
(D) Andhra Pradesh

**185.** THE accounts of the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) are a primary source for the reign of:
(A) Chandragupta Maurya
(B) Ashoka
(C) Harshavardhana
(D) Samudragupta

**186.** Which Gupta ruler assumed the titles 'Sakari' (destroyer of Shakas) and 'Vikramaditya'?
(A) Chandragupta II
(B) Chandragupta I
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Skandagupta

**187.** THE Chola administrative unit 'Nadu' was essentially:
(A) A province
(B) A city administration
(C) A military cantonment
(D) A group of villages or a sub-district

**188.** Which of the following is an example of Pallava rock-cut architecture?
(A) THE Brihadeshwara Temple at Tanjore
(B) THE Five Rathas at Mahabalipuram
(C) THE Kailasa Temple at Ellora
(D) THE Sun Temple at Modhera

**189.** THE Rashtrakuta capital Manyakheta is identified with modern Malkhed in which state?
(A) Maharashtra
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Karnataka
(D) Andhra Pradesh

**190.** What was the main cause of the long-drawn conflict between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas of Vatapi?
(A) Religious differences
(B) Matrimonial disputes
(C) Support for different factions in the tripartite struggle
(D) Control over the fertile Raichur doab

**191.** Arrange the following dynasties in the correct chronological order of their establishment:
1. Vardhana dynasty
2. Gupta dynasty
3. Pala dynasty
4. Chola dynasty (Imperial)
(A) 2, 1, 3, 4
(B) 1, 2, 4, 3
(C) 2, 3, 1, 4
(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

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**192.** Consider the following statements about education during the reign of Harshavardhana:
I. Nalanda was the foremost educational institution.
II. THE curriculum was exclusively religious and excluded secular subjects.
III. Harsha was a great patron of learning and scholars like Banabhatta.

primary state religion.

**171.** THE Solanki ruler Jayasimha Siddharaja and his successor Kumarapala were greatly influenced by which Jaina scholar?
(A) Bhadrabahu
(B) Haribhadra
(C) Jinvasena
(D) Hemachandra

**172.** Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtrakutas and the Chalukyas:
Statement I: THE Rashtrakutas completely eradicated the Chalukya power from the Deccan.
Statement II: THE Chalukyas of Kalyani, a later branch, eventually rose to power by overthrowing the Rashtrakutas.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**173.** THE monolithic Kailasa temple at Ellora, carved out of a single rock, was built by:
(A) THE Pallavas
(B) THE Cholas
(C) THE Rashtrakutas
(D) THE Guptas

**174.** Which of the following dynasties is not correctly matched with its major area of rule?
(A) Palas - Bengal and Bihar
(B) Rashtrakutas - Deccan (Maharashtra/ Karnataka)
(C) Pallavas - Tamil Nadu (Tondaimandalam)
(D) Chalukyas of Vengi - Gujarat

**175.** THE Chola king who led a naval expedition against the Srivijaya kingdom in Southeast Asia was:
(A) Rajendra I
(B) Rajaraja I
(C) Kulottunga I
(D) Aditya I

**176.** Which of the following statements about the Vardhana dynasty is true?
(A) Their original capital was Pataliputra.
(B) Prabhakaravardhana was the first ruler to assume the title 'Maharajadhiraja'.
(C) Harsha was the eldest son of Prabhakaravardhana.
(D) THE dynasty was founded by Harsha himself.

**177.** THE term "Nagar-Dravida-Vesara" refers to:
(A) Three major social classes
(B) Three principal styles of Indian temple architecture
(C) Three types of land revenue systems
(D) Three famous dynasties of the south

**178.** THE Gupta era witnessed significant scientific advancement. Who among the following is credited with postulating the theory of gravity and calculating the solar year with remarkable accuracy?
(A) Brahmagupta
(B) Aryabhata
(C) Varahamihira
(D) Sushruta

**179.** THE Pala dynasty was founded by Gopala in the 8th century CE. What was unique about his accession to the throne?
(A) He inherited the throne from his father.
(B) He usurped the throne from the Sena king.
(C) He was elected as king by the nobles to end a period of anarchy.
(D) He was appointed by the Rashtrakuta emperor.

**180.** Match List I (Author) with List II (Work).
List I:
P. Banabhatta
Q. Ravikirti
R. Harisena
S. Jayadeva
List II:
1. Gita Govinda
2. Allahabad Prashasti
3. Aihole Inscription
4. Harshacharita
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

**181.** Consider the following statements about the Hoysala dynasty:
I. Their capital was Dwarsamudra.
II. They developed a unique style of architecture

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**203.** Consider the following statements regarding the coinage of the Gupta period:
Statement I: Chandragupta I was the first Gupta ruler to issue gold coins.
Statement II: THE gold coins of the Guptas, known as Dinars, were of a high standard and depict the rulers in various poses.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**204.** Who among the following was a renowned ruler of the Varmana dynasty of Kamarupa and a contemporary of Harshavardhana?
(A) Gopala
(B) Bhaskaravarman
(C) Avantivarman
(D) Shashanka

**205.** THE Chalukya capital of Vatapi was sacked and burned by which Pallava king?
(A) Mahendravarman I
(B) Parameswaravarman I
(C) Narasimhavarman I
(D) Nandivarman II

**206.** Which of the following was the primary religion patronized by the Chola rulers?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Jainism
(C) Vaishnavism
(D) Shaivism

**207.** THE Yadava king Ramachandra of Devgiri was a contemporary of which Delhi Sultan?
(A) Alauddin Khalji
(B) Iltutmish
(C) Balban
(D) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

**208.** THE term 'Uparika' was used in the Gupta period for:
(A) A village headman
(B) A provincial governor
(C) A spy
(D) A city magistrate

**209.** THE dynasty that ruled Kashmir after the Karkotas was:
(A) THE Loharas
(B) THE Utpalas
(C) THE Varmans
(D) THE Senas

**210.** Consider the following statements regarding Chola administration:
I. THE empire was divided into provinces called Mandalams.
II. A key feature was the autonomous functioning of village assemblies (Sabha and Ur).
III. All land was directly owned and managed by the central government, with no private ownership.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I and III only
(D) I, II and III

**211.** Which of the following is the best example of Rashtrakuta art and architecture?
(A) THE Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram
(B) THE Brihadeshwara Temple, Tanjore
(C) THE Kailasa Temple, Ellora
(D) THE Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, Khajuraho

**212.** What was the main objective of Rajendra Chola's expedition to the Ganga valley?
(A) To annex the northern region permanently into his kingdom.
(B) To establish new and secure trade routes with the north.
(C) To form a military alliance with the Palas against the Chalukyas.
(D) To demonstrate his military power and fetch holy Ganga water.

**213.** THE Gupta period's relations with Shrilanka (Sri Lanka) are attested by the account of a Sri Lankan king sending a mission to Samudragupta for permission to build a monastery at:
(A) Sanchi
(B) Nalanda
(C) Bodh Gaya
(D) Sarnath

**214.** THE political history of the Sena dynasty of Bengal begins with:
(A) Vijaya Sena

(A) THE Gupta kings were exclusively dedicated Shaivites.
(B) Buddhism completely disappeared from the Indian subcontinent.
(C) It was a period of Brahmanical ascendancy and Vaishnavism.
(D) THE practice of ritual animal sacrifice was legally banned.

**150.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE Chola navy was one of the most powerful maritime forces of its time.
Reason (R): It enabled the Cholas to control trade routes across the Indian Ocean and conquer territories like Sri Lanka and parts of Southeast Asia.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**151.** THE Chalukyas of Kalyani are also referred to as:
(A) Eastern Chalukyas
(B) Solankis
(C) Early Chalukyas
(D) Western Chalukyas of the later period

**152.** Consider the following statements regarding the history of Kashmir:
Statement I: THE rule of the Karkota dynasty is detailed in Kalhana's 'Rajatarangini'.
Statement II: Lalitaditya Muktapida of the Karkota dynasty built the famous Sun Temple at Martand in Kashmir.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**153.** Which dynasty's rulers were the main opponents of the Pallavas in the struggle for supremacy in southern India?
(A) THE Pandyas
(B) THE Cheras
(C) THE Chalukyas of Vatapi
(D) THE Rashtrakutas

**154.** THE system of village autonomy with elected committees (variyams) was a key feature of the administration of which dynasty?
(A) Chola
(B) Gupta
(C) Maurya
(D) Vardhana

**155.** THE Hoysala temples are typically built on a raised platform known as:
(A) Shikhara
(B) Garbhagriha
(C) Mandapa
(D) Jagati

**156.** THE 'Sandhivigrahika' in the Gupta administration was the minister in charge of:
(A) Revenue and Finance
(B) Peace and War
(C) Justice
(D) Royal Household

**157.** Which of the following is NOT an achievement of Samudragupta?
(A) His conquests detailed in the Allahabad Prashasti
(B) THE performance of the Ashvamedha sacrifice
(C) THE defeat of the Hunas and assumption of the title 'Vikramaditya'
(D) His patronage of music, earning him the title 'Kaviraja'

**158.** THE Kailasanatha temple at Kanchi, a masterpiece of structural temple architecture, was built by which Pallava king?
(A) Mahendravarman I
(B) Narasimhavarman I
(C) Dantivarman
(D) Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)

**159.** THE Chalukya ruler who defeated Harshavardhana on the banks of the Narmada was:
(A) Pulakeshin II
(B) Vikramaditya I
(C) Kirtivarman II
(D) Mangalesha

**160.** Match List I (Kingdom) with List II (Capital).
List I:

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List I:
P. Aryabhatiya
Q. Harshacharita
R. Kamasutra
S. Gita Govinda
List II:
1. Erotic and social life
2. Devotional poetry
3. Astronomy and Mathematics
4. Royal Biography
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

**227.** In the context of Pallava administration, 'Ur' was an assembly of:
(A) Brahmin landowners in Brahmadeya villages
(B) Merchants and artisans in a city
(C) Non-Brahmin, tax-paying residents of a regular village
(D) Military commanders

**228.** THE last great imperial Gupta ruler who faced significant challenges from internal rebellions and external invasions was:
(A) Chandragupta II
(B) Kumaragupta I
(C) Vishnugupta
(D) Skandagupta

**229.** Consider the following statements regarding the notable Rashtrakuta rulers:
Statement I: THE Rashtrakuta king Krishna I built the Kailasa temple at Ellora.
Statement II: THE Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I was a great patron of Jainism.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**230.** THE Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu (Dwarsamudra) is dedicated to which deity?
(A) Vishnu
(B) Shiva
(C) Brahma
(D) Surya

**231.** THE term for a district in the Gupta administrative system was:
(A) Bhukti
(B) Grama
(C) Nagara
(D) Vishaya

**232.** Consider the following statements about the cultural contributions of Harshavardhana:
I. He is credited with writing three Sanskrit plays: Ratnavali, Priyadarsika, and Nagananda.
II. He organized grand religious assemblies at Kannauj and Prayag.
III. He banned the use of Sanskrit and promoted only Prakrit.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II only
(C) I and III only
(D) I, II and III

**233.** THE Vakataka kingdom was located in which part of India?
(A) THE Gangetic plains
(B) THE Kalinga region
(C) THE northern Deccan plateau
(D) THE extreme south

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**234.** THE Sena rulers of Bengal originally came from which region?
(A) Karnata (Deccan)
(B) Magadha (Bihar)
(C) Kamarupa (Assam)
(D) Kalinga (Orissa)

**235.** THE Kakatiya kingdom was most famous for its management of what resource, which contributed to its wealth?
(A) Gold mines
(B) Diamond trade
(C) Maritime spice trade
(D) Irrigation tanks and agriculture

**236.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE Chola period witnessed the perfection of Dravidian temple architecture.
Reason (R): Rulers like Rajaraja I and Rajendra I commissioned massive temples like the

# ANSWERS

1. (B) Stridhana
In ancient India, women possessed specific property rights termed Stridhana, which literally translates to a woman's wealth. This property usually comprised items received as gifts during marriage from relatives or parents. Unlike other forms of family property, women generally maintained full autonomy over these assets, which were considered separate from the husband's estate or the general household inheritance.

2. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The administrative system of early medieval India involved land grants known as Agraharas. While many religious endowments existed, Agraharas were specifically reserved for Brahmins to facilitate their scholarly pursuits and ritual duties. These lands were often tax-exempt and provided a steady income, allowing the beneficiaries to focus on preserving Vedic knowledge and performing essential socio-religious ceremonies.

3. (C) Gandhara
Classical Indian temple architecture is primarily classified into three major geographic styles based on structural features. Nagara prevails in the north, while Dravida characterizes the southern regions. Vesara represents a hybrid of these two forms. In contrast, Gandhara is a school of art rather than a temple architecture style, noted for its unique Greco-Buddhist sculptures and stylistic influences.

4. (D) Nagara and Dravida
The Vesara style emerged as a sophisticated hybrid architectural form that integrated distinct elements from both northern and southern Indian traditions. It combines the curvilinear towers characteristic of the Nagara style with the ornate, tiered structures typical of the Dravida style. This synthesis flourished particularly under the Deccan dynasties, creating a unique aesthetic that bridged diverse regional temple designs.

5. (C) They were erected in memory of fallen heroes or women who performed the ritual of sati.
Memorial stones, known as Viragals or Mastikals, served as commemorative monuments throughout ancient and medieval India. These structures were typically raised to honor individuals who displayed extraordinary valor, particularly soldiers dying in battle or women undergoing the ritual of sati. They provide vital historical evidence regarding social values, local conflicts, and the cultural practice of venerating ancestral sacrifice.

6. (B) Northern India
The Nagara style of temple architecture became the dominant school across Northern India between the fifth and thirteenth centuries. Its most distinguishing feature is the shikhara, a curvilinear tower that gradually tapers toward the top. These temples are usually built on a raised stone platform and follow a square plan, representing a significant evolution in the regional artistic tradition.

7. (D) A land grant to Brahmins or religious bodies
An Agrahara functioned as a specialized land donation intended to support the Brahmin community and various religious institutions. By providing tax-free land, kings and wealthy patrons ensured that scholars and priests could maintain their religious duties without economic hardship. This practice played a crucial role in the expansion of agricultural land and the dissemination of Brahmanical culture across India.

8. (A) It is a hybrid style blending Gupta and Kushan elements.
The Dravida style is the classical temple architecture of Southern India, characterized by tiered pyramidal towers known as Vimanas. Unlike hybrid forms, it developed distinct regional features such as large temple tanks and monumental gateways called gopurams. It is not a blend of Gupta and Kushan elements but rather an indigenous evolution that flourished under dynasties like the Pallavas.

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(D) THE successful naval expedition to Srivijaya

**249.** Which of the following dynasties was known for having a powerful navy?
(A) Gupta
(B) Vardhana
(C) Chola
(D) Rashtrakuta

**250.** Which of the following rulers belonged to the Yadava dynasty of Devagiri?
(A) Ramachandra
(B) Ganapatideva
(C) Vishnuvardhana
(D) Ballala III

**251.** Match List I (Term) with List II (Meaning in Chola Administration).
List I:
P. Mandalam
Q. Valanadu
R. Nadu
S. Kurram
List II:
1. A group of villages
2. A district or sub-division
3. A commissionary or division
4. A province
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

**252.** THE Gupta administration was characterized by:
(A) Extreme centralization of power, similar to the Mauryas
(B) A decentralized, feudal structure with significant local autonomy
(C) A system run entirely by military commanders
(D) THE absence of a formal taxation system

**253.** Harsha's religious policy is best described as:
(A) Hostile towards Buddhism
(B) A strict follower of Jainism throughout his reign
(C) Devotion to Shiva initially, followed by a strong inclination towards Mahayana Buddhism
(D) An attempt to create a new syncretic religion

**254.** THE dynasty of the Kakatiyas ruled from their capital at:
(A) Devagiri
(B) Dwarsamudra
(C) Kanchi
(D) Warangal

**255.** Consider the following statements about the Gupta ruler Kumaragupta I:
I. He founded the Nalanda Mahavihara.
II. He issued a wide variety of coins, including the 'peacock' type.
III. His reign faced a major challenge from the Pushyamitras towards the end.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I and III only
(D) I, II and III

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**256.** THE Pallava society and economy was primarily based on:
(A) Maritime trade and piracy
(B) Agrarian economy supplemented by trade
(C) Industrial production
(D) Pastoral nomadism

**257.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Pulakeshin II, the Chalukya king, issued gold coins with the legend 'Varaha'.
Reason (R): THE 'Varaha' or boar was the royal emblem of the Chalukyas of Vatapi.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**258.** THE Western Ganga dynasty mainly ruled over a region known as 'Gangavadi', which corresponds to:
(A) Southern Karnataka
(B) THE Godavari delta
(C) THE region around Kanchi
(D) Coastal Kerala

Brihadeshwara temple, characterized by tall vimanas and intricate sculptures.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**237.** THE 'Dashavatara' temple at Deogarh is a classic example of early Nagara style architecture from which period?
(A) Mauryan
(B) Kushan
(C) Gupta
(D) Vardhana

**238.** Who among the following was the founder of the Chalukya dynasty of Vatapi?
(A) Pulakeshin II
(B) Kirtivarman I
(C) Mangalesha
(D) Pulakeshin I

**239.** THE decline of trade with the West (Roman Empire) during the Gupta period was compensated by an increase in trade with:
(A) China and Southeast Asia
(B) Africa
(C) THE Americas
(D) THE Mongol Empire

**240.** THE Solanki dynasty is also known as:
(A) THE Chalukyas of Vatapi
(B) THE Chaulukyas of Gujarat
(C) THE Chalukyas of Vengi
(D) THE Chalukyas of Kalyani

**241.** What does the term 'Agrahara' signify in the context of ancient Indian history?
(A) A royal decree
(B) A village or land granted to Brahmins
(C) A type of coinage
(D) A military outpost

**242.** THE Pallava-Chalukya conflict primarily revolved around the control of the fertile land between which two rivers?
(A) Krishna and Tungabhadra
(B) Ganga and Yamuna
(C) Narmada and Tapti
(D) Kaveri and Vaigai

**243.** THE Chola period is noted for its extensive and precise land surveys. This was primarily initiated by which ruler?
(A) Vijayalaya
(B) Rajendra I
(C) Rajaraja I
(D) Kulottunga I

**244.** THE social structure during the reign of Harsha, as described by Hiuen Tsang, was:
(A) An egalitarian society with no caste distinctions.
(B) A flexible system where social mobility was easy.
(C) A society dominated by wealthy merchants and traders.
(D) A rigid four-fold caste system with untouchability.

**245.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding the Rashtrakuta dynasty.
(A) Their capital was at Manyakheta.
(B) They were great patrons of Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and Jainism.
(C) They were overthrown by the Pallavas.
(D) They participated in the tripartite struggle for Kannauj.

**246.** THE five monolithic 'rathas' at Mahabalipuram are named after:
(A) Pallava kings
(B) THE Pandava brothers and Draupadi
(C) Hindu deities
(D) Types of architectural styles

**247.** THE Varman dynasty of Kamarupa (Assam) was a contemporary power to:
(A) THE Mauryas
(B) THE Cholas
(C) THE Delhi Sultanate
(D) THE Guptas and Harshavardhana

**248.** THE city of Gangaikondacholapuram was founded to commemorate which military achievement?
(A) THE victorious campaign up to the river Ganga
(B) THE conquest of Sri Lanka
(C) THE victory over the Chalukyas

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(D) I, II and III

**271.** THE Vaikunta Perumal temple at Kanchi was built by which Pallava ruler?
(A) Nandivarman II Pallavamalla
(B) Rajasimha (Narasimhavarman II)
(C) Mahendravarman I
(D) Narasimhavarman I

**272.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE Gupta period is often referred to as the Classical Age of Sanskrit literature.
Reason (R): Great literary figures like Kalidasa, Vishakhadatta, and Shudraka produced their major works during this era.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**273.** THE title 'Prak-jyotisha-pur-adhipati' refers to the king of which region?
(A) Bengal
(B) Kamarupa
(C) Kashmir
(D) Kalinga

**274.** THE Chola bronze statue of Nataraja represents Lord Shiva performing the:
(A) Dance of creation, preservation, and destruction
(B) Dance of preservation
(C) Dance of meditation
(D) War dance

**275.** Match List I (Dynasty) with List II (Royal Emblem).
List I:
P. Chola
Q. Pallava
R. Chalukya
S. Pandya
List II:
1. Boar (Varaha)
2. Fish (Meen)
3. Tiger (Puli)
4. Bull (Nandi)
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**276.** Banabhatta's 'Kadambari' is one of the world's earliest what?
(A) Biographies
(B) Epic poems
(C) Dramas
(D) Novels

**277.** THE Chalukyas of Vengi ruled over the region between which two rivers?
(A) Narmada and Tapti
(B) Krishna and Tungabhadra
(C) Krishna and Godavari
(D) Ganga and Yamuna

**278.** THE Ballala Sena of the Sena dynasty is credited with completing which unfinished work of his father?
(A) Gita Govinda
(B) Danasagara and Adbhutasagara
(C) Pavanaduta
(D) Brahmanasarvasva

**279.** THE social life of the Pallava period was greatly influenced by the rise of:
(A) THE Ajivika sect
(B) Mahayana Buddhism
(C) THE Charvaka school
(D) THE Bhakti movement of Alvars and Nayanars

**280.** THE last known ruler of the imperial Gupta dynasty was:
(A) Vishnugupta
(B) Skandagupta
(C) Budhagupta
(D) Narasimhagupta

**281.** Who among the following was not a great ruler of the Pallava dynasty?
(A) Mahendravarman I
(B) Narasimhavarman I
(C) Amoghavarsha I
(D) Narasimhavarman II

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**18.** (A) 2, 3, 4, 1
The succession of major Gupta emperors follows a clear chronological path during the dynasty's peak. Samudragupta established the imperial foundations, followed by his son Chandragupta II, who expanded the borders. Next came Kumaragupta I, whose long reign preceded the era of Skandagupta. This sequence represents the transition from the empire's rapid expansion to the period where it faced major invasions.

**19.** (C) Chandragupta II
One of the most significant military achievements of Chandragupta II was the final destruction of the Shaka Kshatrapa power in Western India. This victory secured the fertile regions of Malwa and Saurashtra, providing the Gupta empire with direct access to lucrative maritime trade routes. Following this conquest, he assumed the title Sakari, further cementing his reputation as a great warrior-king.

**20.** (D) Vakataka
Prabhavatigupta played a pivotal role in ancient Indian politics through her marriage into the Vakataka dynasty. As a Gupta princess, her union with Rudrasena II served as a vital strategic alliance between the two most powerful contemporary houses. After her husband's early death, she governed as a regent, demonstrating the influential role women could hold in the high administration.

**21.** (C) Skandagupta
During the middle of the fifth century, the Gupta empire faced a critical threat from the invading Hunas. Skandagupta is credited with successfully leading the imperial forces to repel this first major wave of nomadic incursions. His military leadership saved the heartland of the empire from devastation, though the repeated conflicts eventually strained the state's economic resources and military strength.

**22.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The reign of Kumaragupta I is characterized by significant political stability and cultural prosperity. Numismatic evidence confirms that he performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice to assert his imperial authority, continuing the traditions of his predecessors. His era was largely peaceful, allowing for the flourishing of art and education, including the establishment of major learning centers like the Nalanda Mahavihara.

**23.** (D) Uparika
The Gupta administrative system was organized into various hierarchical levels to manage the vast empire efficiently. Provinces, known as Bhuktis, were governed by high-ranking officials typically carrying the title of Uparika. These governors were often members of the royal family or trusted nobles, responsible for maintaining local order, collecting taxes, and ensuring the implementation of imperial decrees across their jurisdictions.

**24.** (A) A share of the agricultural produce, typically one-sixth.
Taxation in the Gupta period was primarily based on agricultural output, reflecting the agrarian nature of the economy. The state generally claimed a fixed portion of the harvest, often referred to as the bhaga, which traditionally amounted to one-sixth of the produce. This system ensured a steady revenue stream for the central administration while allowing farmers to sustain their livelihoods.

**25.** (C) Vishayapati - Head of a province (Bhukti)
In the Gupta administrative framework, the empire was divided into several levels of governance to ensure efficient control. The term Vishayapati designated the official overseeing a specific territory. According to the provided classification, this role is identified with the leadership of a Bhukti, which served as a major administrative province within the broader imperial structure of the sovereign state during this era.

**26.** (A) The complete abolition of the practice of untouchability.
Social life during the Gupta age was marked by the increasing rigidity of the varna system and the proliferation of various sub-castes. While the period witnessed cultural advancements, the practice of untouchability actually intensified, with certain groups being marginalized and forced to live outside city limits. Consequently, any suggestion that this social evil was completely abolished during this time is historically inaccurate.

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**293.** THE economic life of the Gupta period saw a decline in long-distance trade with which region?
(A) Southeast Asia
(B) China
(C) THE Roman Empire
(D) Central Asia

**294.** THE Lohara dynasty was the last of the three major Hindu dynasties of which region?
(A) Bengal
(B) Kashmir
(C) Kamarupa
(D) Gujarat

**295.** Which of the following dynasties was NOT from the 'Dakshinapatha'?
(A) Yadava of Devgiri
(B) Hoysala of Dwarsamudra
(C) Kakatiya of Warangal
(D) Sena dynasty of Bengal

**296.** THE Gupta ruler Chandragupta II shifted his second capital to which city to better control his western territories?
(A) Ujjain
(B) Pataliputra
(C) Kannauj
(D) Thanesar

**297.** THE Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas, and Yadavas all had their centers of power primarily in which modern Indian state?
(A) Tamil Nadu
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Karnataka
(D) Kerala

**298.** Consider the following statements regarding the architectural evolution in Southern India:
Statement I: THE Pallavas were pioneers of rock-cut architecture in South India.
Statement II: THE Cholas perfected the Dravidian style with massive structural temples.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**299.** THE Varman dynasty ruled from Prak-jyotishpura, which is the ancient name for a part of modern-day:
(A) Bihar
(B) Orissa
(C) Bengal
(D) Assam

**300.** THE Solanki ruler Bhima I of Gujarat faced an invasion from which Central Asian conqueror?
(A) Muhammad Ghori
(B) Mahmud of Ghazni
(C) Timur
(D) Genghis Khan

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**259.** What was the most significant consequence of the frequent wars between the Chalukyas, Pallavas, and Pandyas?
(A) It led to the rapid spread of Buddhism in the south.
(B) It resulted in a unified southern empire under the Chalukyas.
(C) It exhausted the resources of all three kingdoms, paving the way for new powers.
(D) It stopped all cultural development in the region.

**260.** THE famous Jain temples at Mount Abu were constructed during the rule of which dynasty?
(A) Paramaras of Malwa
(B) Chandellas of Bundelkhand
(C) Gahadavalas of Kannauj
(D) Solankis of Gujarat

**261.** In the context of the Gupta military, the 'Mahabaladhikrita' was the:
(A) Head of the cavalry
(B) Head of the elephant corps
(C) Commander-in-chief of the army
(D) Minister of war and peace

**262.** Consider the following statements regarding the Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman I:
Statement I: THE Pallava king Narasimhavarman I was also known as Mamalla.
Statement II: THE port city of Mahabalipuram is also called Mamallapuram after him.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

**263.** THE Pala ruler Dharmapala revived which ancient university?
(A) Taxila
(B) Vikramashila
(C) Vallabhi
(D) Nalanda

**264.** THE Hoysala architectural style is considered a form of which broader style?
(A) Vesara
(B) Nagara
(C) Dravida
(D) Gandhara

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**265.** Which of these rulers was NOT a part of the tripartite struggle for Kannauj?
(A) Dharmapala (Pala)
(B) Dhruva (Rashtrakuta)
(C) Rajaraja I (Chola)
(D) Vatsaraja (Gurjara-Pratihara)

**266.** THE Gupta empire's contact with Shrilanka (Sri Lanka) during Samudragupta's reign is mentioned in the accounts of which Chinese writer?
(A) Wang Hiuen-tse
(B) Fa-Hien
(C) I-Tsing
(D) Hiuen Tsang

**267.** THE Karkota dynasty of Kashmir reached its zenith under which ruler?
(A) Durlabhavardhana
(B) Avantivarman
(C) Jayapida
(D) Lalitaditya Muktapida

**268.** THE primary theme of the murals in the Ajanta caves, many of which were painted during the Gupta-Vakataka period, is:
(A) Scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata
(B) Lives and Jataka tales of the Buddha
(C) Royal court scenes of Gupta emperors
(D) Daily life of common people

**269.** THE Rashtrakuta dynasty was overthrown by which ruler of the Western Chalukya (Kalyani) dynasty?
(A) Vikramaditya VI
(B) Someshvara I
(C) Tailapa II
(D) Jayasimha II

**270.** Consider the following statements regarding the Chola navy:
I. It was one of the strongest maritime forces in the ancient world.
II. It was used to conquer Sri Lanka and the Maldive islands.
III. It facilitated extensive trade and cultural exchange with Southeast Asia.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I only

**9.** (C) Chandragupta I
While Sri Gupta and Ghatotkacha were the earliest members of the dynasty, Chandragupta I is recognized as the first powerful sovereign. By assuming the title Maharajadhiraja, he signaled his imperial status and elevated the family's political standing. His marriage to the Lichchhavi princess Kumaradevi further strengthened his influence, marking the beginning of the Gupta era and imperial expansion.

**10.** (A) I only
Ancient legal texts define Stridhana as property over which a woman held exclusive ownership and disposal rights. It primarily included movable assets like jewelry and clothing received as gifts during marriage. Crucially, this wealth could be inherited by her children, distinguishing it from joint family property. Husbands generally lacked legal control over its disposal, ensuring a degree of financial security.

**11.** (D) The region south of the Krishna river valley
The Dravida style represents the principal architectural tradition of Southern India. Geographically, it is predominantly concentrated in the territories located south of the Krishna river. This style is easily identified by its characteristic pyramidal towers and expansive temple complexes. It flourished under the patronage of southern dynasties, becoming a defining cultural symbol of the entire peninsular region.

**12.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Allahabad Pillar inscription serves as a primary historical record detailing the extensive military achievements of Samudragupta. This poetic panegyric was authored by Harisena, who served as a high-ranking official and court poet. Because Harisena was a direct contemporary and eyewitness to the imperial expansion, his detailed composition provides an authentic account of the ruler's widespread conquests.

**13.** (C) Samudragupta
Samudragupta frequently utilized the title Lichchhavi-dauhitra, meaning the son of the daughter of the Lichchhavis, in his inscriptions and on his coins. This designation emphasizes his maternal lineage through his mother, Kumaradevi. Highlighting this connection was politically significant, as the Lichchhavis were an ancient and prestigious clan, whose alliance significantly bolstered the early legitimacy and power of the Gupta dynasty.

**14.** (D) Devichandraguptam
The historical existence of Ramgupta, often considered a shadowy figure between Samudragupta and Chandragupta II, is primarily substantiated through literary works. The play Devichandraguptam, attributed to Vishakhadatta, provides a detailed narrative of his reign and his conflict with the Shakas. This source, supported by later archaeological findings, suggests a complex period of political instability before the rise of Vikramaditya.

**15.** (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Indian architectural history is categorized by distinct regional styles and commemorative practices. The Nagara style features curvilinear shikharas, while Dravida architecture is known for pyramidal vimanas. The Vesara style represents a hybrid synthesis of these two traditions. Additionally, memorial stones were specifically utilized across various regions to honor individuals who met a heroic death, documenting the cultural values of valor.

**16.** (B) Chandragupta II
Chandragupta II is one of the most celebrated rulers of the Gupta empire, famously known by his title Vikramaditya. His reign is often regarded as a cultural peak, marked by significant territorial expansion and the patronage of legendary scholars. By adopting this title, he associated himself with the mythical hero-king, symbolizing his immense power, military success, and religious righteousness.

**17.** (B) Prabhavatigupta
The Gupta empire utilized strategic matrimonial alliances to stabilize their political influence across the Deccan. Prabhavatigupta, the daughter of Chandragupta II, was married to the Vakataka king Rudrasena II. This union created a powerful diplomatic bond, allowing the Guptas to secure their southern borders while focusing on military campaigns in the west. It also facilitated a significant exchange of cultural traditions.

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**282.** Which of the following is true about the religious condition during the Chola era?
(A) Shaivism and Vaishnavism flourished, though Shaivism received more royal patronage.
(B) Buddhism was the state religion.
(C) Only Jainism was patronized by the Chola kings.
(D) There was great persecution of Vaishnavites by Shaivite kings.

**283.** THE Kadamba dynasty was a Brahmin dynasty of the ancient:
(A) Tamil country
(B) Kalinga region
(C) Magadha region
(D) Karnataka region

**284.** Harsha's empire included which of the following regions?
(A) THE entire Deccan plateau
(B) THE Punjab, Kannauj, Bengal, and Orissa
(C) Kashmir and Nepal
(D) THE Chola and Pandya kingdoms

**285.** Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Dravida style of temple architecture?
(A) A towering gateway called Gopuram
(B) A pyramidal tower over the sanctum called Vimana
(C) A curvilinear spire called Shikhara
(D) THE presence of a large water tank

**286.** Consider the following statements about the Gupta ruler Samudragupta:
I. He is called the 'Napoleon of India' for his military conquests.
II. He was a great patron of art and music and was an accomplished Veena player.
III. He followed a policy of complete annexation of the southern kingdoms.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) I and II only
(B) II and III only
(C) I only
(D) I, II and III

**287.** THE Rashtrakuta king Dhruva Dharavarsha defeated which two contemporary northern rulers?
(A) Dharmapala and Vatsaraja
(B) Nagabhata II and Devapala
(C) Harsha and Pulakeshin II
(D) Chandragupta II and Rudrasena II

**288.** THE magnificent Chennakeshava temple at Belur is an example of which architectural style?
(A) Pallava
(B) Hoysala
(C) Chola
(D) Kakatiya

**289.** THE Chinese traveler Fa-Hien visited India during the reign of:
(A) Ashoka
(B) Chandragupta II Vikramaditya
(C) Kanishka
(D) Harshavardhana

**290.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): THE village assemblies of the Cholas, particularly the 'Sabha' of Brahmadeya villages, enjoyed a high degree of autonomy.
Reason (R): Inscriptions like the one at Uttaramerur detail the functioning of these assemblies, including their constitution and the election of members.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**291.** THE term "Vatapikonda" was a title assumed by:
(A) Pulakeshin II after defeating Harsha
(B) Rajendra Chola after his Ganga expedition
(C) Narasimhavarman I after sacking the Chalukyan capital
(D) Dantidurga after defeating the Chalukyas

**292.** Which dynasty did queen Didda, who ruled in the 10th century CE, belong to?
(A) Karkota dynasty of Kashmir
(B) Pala dynasty of Bengal
(C) Sena dynasty of Bengal
(D) Utpala dynasty of Kashmir

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**27.** (D) I, II and III
The Gupta economy was characterized by several dynamic features, including the abundant issuance of high-quality gold coins. While maritime trade with the Roman Empire experienced a period of decline, commercial interactions with Southeast Asia grew significantly. Furthermore, the development of sophisticated professional guilds, or shrenis, played a crucial role in organizing artisans and merchants, ensuring the stability of urban production.

**28.** (B) Vakataka
The Ajanta and Ellora cave complexes represent masterpieces of ancient Indian rock-cut architecture and mural painting. While these sites evolved over centuries, they received extensive support during the reign of the Vakatakas, who were close contemporaries and allies of the Guptas. This patronage allowed for the creation of intricate Buddhist and Brahmanical shrines that display the artistic brilliance of the era.

**29.** (C) Brahmanical revival occurred with the rise of Bhakti.
The Gupta period witnessed a significant transformation in religious life, characterized by the revival of Brahmanical traditions. This era saw the rise of the Bhakti movement, emphasizing personal devotion to deities like Vishnu and Shiva. As Puranic Hinduism became more prominent, elaborate temple construction and the performance of Vedic rituals increased, marking a shift away from the earlier dominance of Buddhism.

**30.** (D) Chandragupta II
Kalidasa, widely regarded as the greatest poet and playwright in Sanskrit literature, is traditionally associated with the legendary court of Chandragupta II. He is often identified as one of the Nine Gems who adorned the imperial circle at Ujjain. His works, such as Shakuntala and Meghaduta, reflect the sophisticated cultural atmosphere and artistic patronage that defined the peak of the dynasty.

**31.** (A) Gupta
The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is one of the earliest surviving Hindu stone temples, representing the pinnacle of Gupta architectural style. Built during the fifth century, it features an early form of a tower and intricate sculptural panels depicting Vishnu. This structure serves as a critical evolutionary link between simple rock-cut shrines and the grand structural temples of later Indian history.

**32.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Historians frequently describe the Gupta period as the Golden Age of India due to the unparalleled excellence achieved in various intellectual and artistic fields. This era fostered significant breakthroughs in mathematics, astronomy, and Sanskrit literature. The harmony between political stability and royal patronage provided the necessary environment for creators and scientists to produce works that defined classical Indian civilization for centuries.

**33.** (B) Chandragupta II
The Chinese monk Fa-Hien traveled to India during the early fifth century to collect authentic Buddhist scriptures. His detailed travelogues provide an invaluable perspective on the social and administrative conditions during the reign of Chandragupta II. He described a prosperous land with mild governance, emphasizing the peaceful nature of the society and the widespread practice of Buddhist traditions alongside Brahmanism.

**34.** (A) Missionary activities and trade
During the Gupta era, India's engagement with Southeast Asia was largely defined by peaceful interactions rather than military conquest. This contact was primarily driven by Buddhist and Hindu missions seeking to share religious philosophies and by merchants exploring lucrative maritime trade routes. These exchanges led to the gradual spread of Indian scripts, law, and artistic styles, deeply influencing regional cultures.

**35.** (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
The Gupta period produced several foundational texts across diverse disciplines. Aryabhata authored the Aryabhatiya, revolutionizing astronomy and mathematics. Kalidasa composed the epic Raghuvamsa, showcasing classical poetic excellence. Shudraka wrote the celebrated drama Mrichchhakatika, which provided insights into urban social life. Vatsyayana authored the Kamasutra, a treatise on social and erotic life,

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from different regions. Amoghavarsha I was a celebrated Rashtrakuta ruler known for his cultural pursuits. Narasimhavarman I led the Pallavas to significant military and architectural heights. Dharmapala was a key figure of the Pala dynasty in Bengal. Rajaraja I established the foundations of the imperial Chola greatness in the south.

**90.** (A) A province
For administrative efficiency, the vast Chola empire was divided into several large units known as Mandalams. These were essentially provinces, often governed by members of the royal family or trusted high-ranking officials. Each Mandalam was further subdivided into smaller units for more localized control. This hierarchical structure allowed the Chola kings to maintain effective authority over diverse territories ranging from Southern India to overseas dependencies.

**91.** (D) Yadava
The Yadava dynasty, also known as the Seuna dynasty, established its rule in the western Deccan. Their capital was located at Devagiri, a formidable hill fort in modern-day Maharashtra. The Yadavas were a major regional power until the late thirteenth century. Their capital, Devagiri, was later renamed Daulatabad after it was captured and briefly used as a headquarters by the Delhi Sultanate.

**92.** (B) Dwarsamudra (Halebidu)
The Hoysala dynasty rose to prominence in the Karnataka region, initially serving as feudatories before becoming independent rulers. They established their capital at Dwarsamudra, known today as Halebidu. This city became a center for art and commerce, housing some of the most intricately carved temples in India. The Hoysalas are particularly remembered for their unique architectural style and their resistance against northern invasions.

**93.** (C) Telangana/Andhra Pradesh
The Kakatiya dynasty was a significant power that governed the Telugu-speaking regions of the eastern Deccan. With their capital at Warangal, they controlled vast territories that correspond to modern-day Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh. The Kakatiyas are known for their military valor, their innovative irrigation systems involving large tanks, and the rule of prominent figures like Ganapatideva and Queen Rudramadevi.

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**94.** (D) Banavasi
The Kadamba dynasty holds a special place in history as one of the earliest indigenous kingdoms of Karnataka. Founded by Mayurasharman, the dynasty established its primary capital at Banavasi. They are credited with being among the first to use Kannada for administrative purposes alongside Sanskrit. Their rule marked the beginning of a distinct regional political identity that influenced later southern dynasties for centuries.

**95.** (A) Talakad
The Western Ganga dynasty was a major power in Southern Karnataka, ruling the region known as Gangavadi. While they initially governed from Kolar, they later shifted their political center to Talakad on the banks of the Kaveri river. The Gangas are remembered for their patronage of Jainism and for the construction of significant religious monuments, including the colossal Gommateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola.

**96.** (B) The Ganga dynasty was primarily established in the Kalinga region.
The Western Ganga dynasty was actually established in Southern Karnataka, distinct from the Eastern Gangas of Kalinga. The other kingdoms of the Dakshinapatha, such as the Hoysalas, are famous for their unique star-shaped temple designs. Similarly, the Yadavas were a dominant force until their eventual defeat by the Delhi Sultanate, and the Kakatiyas were notable for the successful reign of Queen Rudramadevi.

**97.** (B) Western Ganga
The monolithic statue of Gommateshwara at Shravanabelagola is one of the tallest free-standing statues in the world. It was commissioned in the tenth century by Chavundaraya, who served as a minister and general under the Western Ganga dynasty. This magnificent work of art reflects the dynasty's deep commitment to Jainism and remains a major pilgrimage site and a masterpiece of medieval Indian sculpture.

located south of this river remained under the control of independent southern powers.

**45.** (B) I and III only
Hiuen Tsang's detailed travelogues describe a complex Indian society characterized by a rigid caste system and the existence of marginalized groups. He expressed great admiration for the educational standards at Nalanda and the intellectual discipline of its scholars. However, he also noted that travel was not entirely safe, as he himself encountered bandits, contradicting the notion that the roads were secure.

**46.** (D) Kashmir
The Karkota dynasty was the first major ruling house of early medieval Kashmir, establishing a powerful regional empire. Under its most famous rulers, the dynasty expanded its influence into Northern India and Central Asia. Their reign is particularly remembered for the construction of monumental structures, such as the Martand Sun Temple, and for fostering a unique cultural identity in the valley.

**47.** (A) Buddhism
The Pala dynasty of Bengal and Bihar stands out as the last major royal house in India to offer extensive state patronage to Buddhism. They supported numerous monasteries and universities, facilitating the development of later Buddhist traditions. Their influence extended beyond Indian borders, as they maintained close ties with Buddhist kingdoms in Southeast Asia and Tibet, promoting regional cultural exchange.

**48.** (B) Dharmapala
Dharmapala was the second ruler of the Pala dynasty and is credited with founding the famous Vikramashila University. This institution became a premier center for Buddhist learning, particularly specializing in Vajrayana traditions. By establishing such centers, Dharmapala cemented the Palas' reputation as great patrons of education and ensured the survival and evolution of Buddhist scholarship during the early medieval period.

**49.** (B) 2, 3, 1
The political history of Kashmir is defined by a succession of influential dynasties that governed the region. The Karkota dynasty established the first major empire, followed by the Utpala dynasty, which focused on internal consolidation and irrigation projects. Finally, the Lohara dynasty came to power, representing the later phase of Hindu rule in the valley before the transition to medieval sultanates.

**50.** (A) Kamarupa (Assam)
The Varman dynasty was the first historical ruling family of Kamarupa, located in modern-day Assam. They claimed descent from the mythical Naraka and established their capital at Pragjyotishpura. During the reign of Bhaskaravarman, the dynasty became a significant ally of Harshavardhana, participating in major diplomatic events and contributing to the cultural and political life of the broader Indian subcontinent.

**51.** (C) Brahmanical Hinduism, especially Vaishnavism
Unlike the Buddhist Pala rulers who preceded them, the Sena dynasty were staunch patrons of Brahmanical Hinduism. They originated from the south and brought with them a strong tradition of Sanskrit scholarship and orthodox religious practices. Their court became a center for poets and scholars, particularly those dedicated to Vaishnavism, reflecting a major shift in the religious landscape of medieval Bengal.

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**52.** (D) Karkota
Lalitaditya Muktapida was the most celebrated warrior-king of the Karkota dynasty in Kashmir. His reign was marked by extensive military campaigns that reached as far as Central Asia and the Gangetic plains. He was also a prolific builder, commissioning the iconic Martand Sun Temple. His achievements transformed Kashmir into a formidable imperial power during the eighth century, leaving a lasting legacy.

**53.** (C) Rashtrakutas
The Tripartite Struggle was a long-drawn conflict for the control of the prestigious city of Kannauj. It primarily involved the Gurjara-Pratiharas of the west, the Palas of the east, and the Rashtrakutas of the south. This competition for northern hegemony lasted for over two centuries, eventually exhausting the resources of all three dynasties and paving the way for the rise of local powers.

**72.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Rashtrakuta administration effectively built upon the foundations laid by their predecessors, the Guptas and Chalukyas, maintaining a tiered system of provinces and districts. Simultaneously, the dynasty left an indelible mark on Indian art history. Their patronage is best exemplified by the extraordinary rock-cut shrines at Ellora and Elephanta, which showcase a blend of powerful sculpture and sophisticated architectural planning.

**73.** (C) Kanchipuram
The Pallava dynasty established its political and cultural headquarters at Kanchipuram, one of the most ancient and sacred cities of Southern India. This capital became a premier center for Sanskrit and Tamil learning, attracting scholars from across the subcontinent. Under Pallava rule, Kanchipuram flourished as a hub of religious activity and a major point of administration for their extensive southern territories.

**74.** (A) Appar
Mahendravarman I was a versatile Pallava monarch who underwent a significant religious transformation during his reign. Originally a follower of Jainism, he was converted to Shaivism through the influence of the celebrated saint Appar, also known as Tirunavukkarasar. This conversion had a profound impact on the king's patronage, leading to the construction of numerous Shiva temples and the promotion of the Bhakti movement.

**75.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Narasimhavarman I is famously associated with the title Vatapikonda, meaning the conqueror of Vatapi. He assumed this designation after successfully leading an invasion into the heart of the Chalukyan empire and sacking their capital. This military campaign was a decisive act of retaliation for the earlier defeats suffered by his father at the hands of the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II.

**76.** (B) Pallava
The group of monolithic temples known as the Five Rathas at Mamallapuram represents a unique achievement in Pallava art. These structures were carved out of single granite boulders during the seventh century, primarily under the patronage of Narasimhavarman I. Each ratha displays a different architectural form, serving as prototypes for later structural temples and showcasing the dynasty's innovative approach to rock-cut design.

**77.** (C) The transition from rock-cut to structural temples
Pallava architecture is historically significant for documenting the evolution of temple building in Southern India. The tradition began with simple rock-cut caves and progressed toward complex monolithic structures like the rathas. Eventually, this culminated in the construction of fully structural stone temples, such as the Shore Temple and the Kailasanatha. This transition represents a major technological and stylistic advancement in early medieval Indian art.

**78.** (D) Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)
The reign of Narasimhavarman II, also known as Rajasimha, was a period of peace and significant cultural achievement. He was a great patron of arts and literature, and his court is believed to have hosted the renowned Sanskrit scholar Dandin. This era saw the construction of some of the most beautiful structural temples, reflecting the sophisticated intellectual and aesthetic environment fostered by the monarch.

**79.** (A) Rajendra Chola
The Pallava dynasty produced several powerful monarchs who shaped the history of South India, including Mahendravarman I and the two rulers named Narasimhavarman. These kings were responsible for significant military victories and lasting architectural monuments. In contrast, Rajendra Chola belonged to the imperial Chola dynasty, which rose to prominence much later by eventually supplanting the power of the Pallavas and their successors.

**80.** (B) Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)
The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram is one of the earliest and most elegant examples of a structural stone temple in the Dravida style. It was commissioned by the Pallava king Narasimhavarman II, who preferred building with stone blocks rather than excavating caves. Its location on the coastline and its slender, tiered vimana demonstrate the architectural maturity

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**63.** (A) Vikramaditya II
The Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal stands as a monumental achievement of Chalukyan architecture. It was commissioned by Lokamahadevi, the queen of Vikramaditya II, to commemorate her husband's repeated and successful invasions of the Pallava capital, Kanchi. The temple's design was heavily influenced by the Kailasanatha temple of Kanchi, illustrating the cultural exchange that often followed the intense military conflicts between southern dynasties.

**64.** (B) The administrative system was highly centralized with no local autonomy.
Chalukya administration followed the traditional Indian pattern of dividing the kingdom into provinces and districts for efficient management. While the king held supreme authority, the system was not entirely centralized. Local village assemblies and regional officials exercised significant autonomy in managing local affairs and resources. Therefore, any claim that the system lacked local government or was completely centralized is historically incorrect.

**65.** (B) Dantidurga
Dantidurga was the ambitious chieftain who founded the Rashtrakuta dynasty by overthrowing the last Chalukya king of Vatapi. He performed the Hiranyagarbha sacrifice at Ujjain to assert his newly acquired sovereign status. His rise marked a significant shift in Deccan politics, as the Rashtrakutas replaced the Chalukyas as the dominant power, eventually becoming one of the most influential empires in Indian history.

**66.** (B) I and III only
The Rashtrakutas were a formidable imperial power that actively participated in the tripartite struggle for control over northern India. Their administration was known for its religious tolerance, offering patronage to both Shaivism and Jainism. However, their primary capital was located at Manyakheta in the Deccan, not at Vengi. They successfully projected their power across the subcontinent, from the south to the Gangetic plains.

**67.** (C) Krishna I
The monolithic Kailasa temple at Ellora is a marvel of rock-cut architecture, commissioned by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I. Carved entirely out of a single massive rock from the top down, it represents the pinnacle of artistic achievement in medieval India. The temple serves as a testament to the immense resources and sophisticated engineering skills available during the height of Rashtrakuta imperial power.

**68.** (D) Amoghavarsha I (Nripatunga)
Amoghavarsha I was the most distinguished and long-reigning monarch of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. He was more inclined toward religion and literature than constant warfare, famously authoring the Kavirajamarga in Kannada. A devout patron of Jainism, his reign is remembered as a period of cultural flourishing and peace. He established a new capital at Manyakheta, which became a center of learning and diplomacy.

**69.** (C) Anhilwara (Patan)
The Solanki dynasty, often referred to as the Chaulukyas of Gujarat, established their political center at Anhilwara, known today as Patan. This city served as a vibrant capital for several centuries, becoming a major hub for trade, culture, and religious activity in Western India. The Solankis transformed the region into a prosperous kingdom, leaving behind a rich legacy of temple architecture and literature.

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**70.** (B) Solanki (Chaulukya)
The Solanki dynasty was renowned for its magnificent architectural contributions in Western India. During their rule, they commissioned the iconic Sun Temple at Modhera and supported the construction of the intricate Dilwara Jain temples at Mount Abu. These structures are characterized by their exquisite carvings and sophisticated masonry, representing the high point of the Maru-Gurjara architectural style during the medieval period.

**71.** (D) Bhima I
Bhima I was a prominent Solanki ruler who governed Gujarat during a turbulent period of foreign invasions. Although he faced the initial brunt of Mahmud of Ghazni's devastating raid on the Somnath temple, he is credited with the subsequent restoration and rebuilding of the sacred site. His reign demonstrated the resilience of the dynasty and its commitment to preserving the region's religious and cultural heritage.

**54.** (B) Lakshmana Sena
Lakshmana Sena was the last significant ruler of the Sena dynasty in Bengal. His court was a vibrant center for Sanskrit literature, famously hosting the poet Jayadeva, who authored the Gita Govinda. Although his reign saw the initial incursions of Turkic forces, he is remembered for his patronage of the arts and his efforts to maintain the cultural glory of his kingdom.

**55.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Pala rulers maintained active diplomatic and cultural relations with the Srivijaya empire of Southeast Asia. This bond was largely facilitated by their shared devotion to Mahayana Buddhism. For instance, the Srivijayan kings requested permission from the Palas to build a monastery at Nalanda, demonstrating how religious commonality served as a powerful bridge for international cooperation and maritime commercial exchange.

**56.** (A) Western Chalukyas
The Chalukyas of Vatapi are frequently identified as the Western Chalukyas to distinguish them from later branches and the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi. They established their supremacy in the Deccan during the sixth century. Known for their military might and innovative temple architecture, they played a dominant role in peninsular politics until they were eventually superseded by the rising power of the Rashtrakutas.

**57.** (C) Karnataka
Vatapi, the historic capital of the Western Chalukyas, is known today as Badami and is situated in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka. The site is famous for its magnificent rock-cut cave temples and its strategic location between rugged sandstone cliffs. This region served as the heartland of Chalukyan power, where they developed the foundational elements of their unique artistic and architectural traditions.

**58.** (A) Chalukyas of Vatapi - Badami
The Chalukya dynasty eventually split into distinct regional branches, each associated with a specific capital. The primary line, known as the Chalukyas of Vatapi, ruled from Badami in modern Karnataka. Another branch established its authority in the east at Vengi, while a later western line rose to power at Kalyani. Correctly identifying these pairs is essential for understanding early medieval Deccan history.

**59.** (D) Ravikirti
The Aihole inscription is a critical historical document composed by Ravikirti, who was the court poet of the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II. Written in sophisticated Sanskrit, this poetic panegyric details the king's extensive victories, including his famous defeat of Harshavardhana. The inscription provides essential chronological data and geographic information regarding the extent of the Chalukyan empire during its most powerful phase.

**60.** (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Early medieval Indian history is characterized by powerful regional dynasties and their respective territories. The Palas dominated Bengal, while the Varman dynasty governed Kamarupa in the east. The Karkota dynasty established a significant empire in the Kashmir valley. Meanwhile, the Chalukyas centered their power at Vatapi in the Deccan. These dynasties each contributed to the distinct cultural and political landscape of their regions.

**61.** (C) Chalukyas of Vengi
The Eastern Chalukyas emerged as an independent branch of the main Chalukya family after Pulakeshin II conquered the Vengi region in modern Andhra Pradesh. He appointed his brother, Kubja Vishnuvardhana, as the governor, who subsequently established a separate dynasty. This line ruled for several centuries, developing a unique regional culture that blended Chalukyan traditions with the local characteristics of the Telugu-speaking areas.

**62.** (D) Vesara
The architectural experiments conducted by the Chalukyas of Vatapi at sites like Aihole and Badami laid the groundwork for the Vesara style. This hybrid tradition emerged by combining the northern Nagara features with the southern Dravida elements. By blending diverse structural forms, the Chalukyas created a transitional style that reached its highest complexity under the later medieval dynasties of the Deccan plateau.

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reached during the final phase of the dynasty's glory.

**81.** (B) They were village assemblies with administrative functions.
In the Pallava administrative system, local governance was managed through specific village assemblies known as the sabha and the ur. The sabha typically consisted of Brahmin residents in gifted villages, while the ur was the assembly of the common tax-paying inhabitants. These bodies held considerable authority over local affairs, including land management, irrigation, and the collection of taxes for the central government.

**82.** (A) Pallavas
The imperial Cholas rose to power in the ninth century by re-establishing their authority in the Kaveri delta. They achieved this by overthrowing the local feudatories who were then serving the Pallava dynasty. By capturing Tanjore and consolidating their position, the Cholas gradually dismantled the remnants of Pallava supremacy, eventually emerging as the most dominant maritime and territorial power in the entire southern region.

**83.** (C) Vijayalaya
Vijayalaya is recognized as the founder of the imperial Chola line. Originally a feudatory, he took advantage of the conflict between the Pandyas and Pallavas to capture the city of Tanjore. He established a temple to the goddess Nishumbhasudini there and made it his capital. His success laid the necessary foundation for his successors to build one of India's most powerful and long-lasting medieval empires.

**84.** (B) II and III only
The Chola administration is often analyzed for its centralized features and its monumental religious projects. This perspective emphasizes the king's direct role in constructing massive structures like the Brihadeshwara temple. Furthermore, it examines the imperial hierarchy and the systematic organization of resources required to maintain such a vast and powerful maritime empire during the height of the dynasty's territorial expansion.

**85.** (C) Rajendra I
Rajendra I was one of the greatest Chola conquerors, famously leading a military expedition to the banks of the Ganges. To celebrate this achievement, he assumed the title Gangaikondachola and established a magnificent new capital named Gangaikondacholapuram. This city, along with its massive temple, served as a symbol of Chola imperial reach and their dominance over both southern and parts of northern India.

**86.** (B) The system of autonomous village self-government.
The most distinctive and celebrated feature of the Chola empire was its sophisticated system of local administration. Unlike many other contemporary states, Chola villages enjoyed a high degree of autonomy, managed by elected committees. These local bodies were responsible for justice, revenue, and public works. This grassroots democracy ensured stability and efficient resource management, becoming a model for local governance in later Indian history.

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**87.** (D) Shiva as Nataraja
Chola art reached its zenith in the field of metallurgy, specifically through the creation of exquisite lost-wax bronze sculptures. The most iconic representation from this period is the figure of Shiva as Nataraja, the Lord of the Dance. These statues perfectly blend religious symbolism with fluid artistic grace, representing the cosmic cycle of creation and destruction, and are globally recognized as masterpieces of medieval art.

**88.** (A) Chola
The Uttaramerur inscription is a vital historical source that provides a detailed account of village administration under the Cholas. It explicitly describes the qualifications required for committee members, the method of election by lot, and the various functions of the local assembly. This record confirms the high level of organization and the democratic principles that characterized Chola local government during the tenth and eleventh centuries.

**89.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The political landscape of ancient and medieval India featured several legendary monarchs

system allowed the central government to maintain control over diverse regions and ensure the efficient collection of revenue and implementation of laws.

**107.** (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
The religious landscape of medieval Bengal shifted significantly between the Pala and Sena dynasties. The Pala rulers were famously dedicated patrons of Buddhism, supporting major monasteries and international missions. Conversely, the Sena dynasty, which succeeded them, promoted Brahmanical Hinduism. They were particularly known for their devotion to Vaishnavism and their patronage of Sanskrit poets like Jayadeva, marking a clear departure from the earlier Buddhist traditions.

**108.** (B) Later Chalukyas (of Kalyani) and Hoysalas
The Vesara style, characterized by its hybrid integration of northern and southern architectural elements, reached its highest stage of development under the Later Chalukyas and the Hoysalas. These dynasties refined the style by introducing star-shaped temple plans and incredibly dense, intricate carvings. Their artistic innovations created some of the most ornate and visually complex religious structures in the Deccan, representing a distinct peak in Indian architectural history.

**109.** (C) Pallava
Pallava temple architecture evolved through four distinct stages, each named after the reigning monarch who patronized the style. It began with Mahendravarman's simple rock-cut caves and progressed through Narasimhavarman I's monolithic rathas. Later, under Rajasimha, the tradition shifted to fully structural stone temples. The final phase, named after Nandivarman, featured smaller structural shrines, documenting a clear and influential line of architectural development in the south.

**110.** (D) Devichandraguptam by Vishakhadatta
The historical narrative of Ramgupta, considered the elder brother of Chandragupta II, is largely preserved in the Sanskrit play Devichandraguptam. Written by Vishakhadatta, the work describes Ramgupta's humiliating surrender to a Shaka ruler and his subsequent overthrow by Chandragupta. While other Gupta records often omit his name, this literary source, combined with specific numismatic evidence, provides essential clues about this controversial period of Gupta history.

**111.** (A) He followed a policy of 'Grahana-moksha-anugraha' towards southern kings.
Samudragupta's military strategy in Southern India was distinct from his northern conquests. Instead of permanent annexation, he adopted a policy of capturing the kings, releasing them, and then showing favor by reinstating them as tributary vassals. This approach, known as Grahana-moksha-anugraha, allowed him to assert imperial suzerainty and collect tribute without the administrative burden of directly governing territories located far from his northern capital.

**112.** (B) A land grant given to learned Brahman scholars.
An Agrahara was a specialized form of land endowment common in ancient and medieval India. These grants were specifically bestowed upon learned Brahmins to support their religious and educational activities. By providing these scholars with tax-free land and its associated revenue, rulers sought to gain spiritual merit and ensure the preservation of traditional knowledge, thereby fostering centers of learning and culture.

**113.** (B) Rashtrakutas - Vengi
Understanding the geography of early medieval India requires correctly matching dynasties with their political centers. The Pallavas were centered at Kanchi, and the Chalukyas of Vatapi ruled from Badami. The imperial Cholas established their capital at Tanjore. However, the Rashtrakutas were based at Manyakheta in the Deccan. Vengi was actually the capital of the Eastern Chalukyas, making the Rashtrakuta-Vengi pair historically inaccurate.

**114.** (A) Skandagupta
The reign of Skandagupta marked a pivotal turning point for the Gupta empire. While he successfully repelled a massive Huna invasion and restored order after internal revolts, the constant warfare severely drained the imperial treasury. After his death, the central authority weakened significantly, and subsequent Huna incursions further destabilized the state. His

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**98.** (A) The use of soft soapstone allowing for intricate carving
Hoysala temple architecture is most distinguished by its extraordinary level of surface detail. This was made possible by using chloritic schist, a soft soapstone that hardens over time. Builders could carve this material with the precision of a jeweler, resulting in incredibly intricate sculptures and friezes. This characteristic, combined with their star-shaped plans, creates an aesthetic that is unique in Indian architecture.

**99.** (C) Kakatiya
The Thousand Pillar Temple at Hanamakonda is a classic example of Kakatiya architectural brilliance. Built in the twelfth century, it is dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, and Surya. The temple is famous for its richly carved pillars, perforated stone screens, and a large monolithic Nandi. It reflects the sophisticated engineering and artistic skills that flourished under the Kakatiya rulers in the Deccan region.

**100.** (D) I, II and III
The Gupta empire reached its zenith through the efforts of several capable rulers. Samudragupta's southern campaigns were characterized by his policy of reinstating defeated kings as tributaries. Chandragupta II expanded the imperial borders into Western India by eliminating the Shaka power. Subsequently, Skandagupta successfully defended the empire against internal revolts and external threats from the Hunas, ensuring the dynasty's survival during a critical period.

**101.** (A) 1, 2, 3, 4
Harshavardhana's reign followed a structured sequence of political and religious developments. He first ascended the throne of Thanesar before moving the capital to Kannauj to consolidate his northern authority. His attempt to expand southward resulted in a famous defeat by Pulakeshin II. Later in his reign, he focused on religious activities, culminating in the grand assembly at Prayag witnessed by Hiuen Tsang.

**102.** (B) Indraprastha
During the Gupta period, India maintained extensive maritime trade through several major ports. Tamralipti served as the primary gateway for commerce with Southeast Asia and China. On the western coast, ports like Bharukachchha and Sopara handled trade with the Mediterranean and Persian regions. In contrast, Indraprastha was a significant inland city with ancient roots, but it did not function as a major international maritime port.

**103.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The matrimonial alliance between the Guptas and Vakatakas was a masterstroke of ancient Indian diplomacy. By marrying his daughter Prabhavatigupta to Rudresena II, Chandragupta II secured a strategic ally in the Deccan. This relationship provided the Guptas with a stable southern frontier and logistical support, which was essential for their successful military campaign against the Shaka Western Kshatrapas in the late fourth century.

**104.** (A) Mahayana Buddhism
Nalanda University emerged as the premier international center for higher learning in ancient India. While it offered a broad range of subjects, its core identity was deeply rooted in Mahayana Buddhist philosophy. It attracted scholars from across the Buddhist world, fostering intense intellectual debates and the preservation of sacred texts. The institution's emphasis on logic and metaphysics significantly influenced the development of Buddhist thought throughout Asia.

**105.** (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
The medieval Deccan and South India were ruled by several illustrious monarchs from different dynasties. Ramachandra was a prominent king of the Yadavas at Devagiri. Vishnuvardhana transformed the Hoysalas into a major power and built grand temples. Rudramadevi was a celebrated queen of the Kakatiya dynasty. Durvinita was a scholarly and powerful ruler of the Western Gangas, contributing significantly to their regional influence.

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**106.** (A) A province
In the hierarchical administrative structure of the Gupta empire, the largest territorial divisions were known as Bhuktis. These provinces were governed by officials called Uparikas, who were often appointed directly by the emperor. Each Bhukti was further subdivided into smaller districts called Vishayas. This organized

reflecting the intellectual depth of the classical era.

**36.** (D) Pushyabhuti (Vardhana)
Harshavardhana was the most prominent ruler of the Pushyabhuti dynasty, which originally established its power in the region of Thanesar. This family is often referred to as the Vardhana dynasty in historical texts. Rising from the ruins of the Gupta empire, they eventually established a major northern Indian state, with Harsha becoming a central figure in early medieval Indian history.

**37.** (C) Thanesar
The political center of the Vardhana dynasty was initially located at Thanesar in modern-day Haryana. Following the death of his brother and the crisis in the neighboring kingdom of Kannauj, Harshavardhana eventually shifted his capital to the latter city. This move was strategic, as Kannauj was more centrally located and symbolized imperial authority over the fertile and populous Indo-Gangetic plains.

**38.** (B) Banabhatta
Banabhatta served as the court poet of Harshavardhana and authored the Harshacharita, which is the first formal biography of an Indian king. This work provides a detailed, though idealized, account of Harsha's early life, his rise to power, and the social conditions of the period. It remains a crucial literary source for understanding the transition from antiquity to the medieval era.

**39.** (D) Pulakeshin II
Harshavardhana's attempt to expand his empire into the Deccan was famously checked by the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II. The two rulers engaged in a decisive battle on the banks of the Narmada river, where Pulakeshin II emerged victorious. This encounter effectively established the river as the southern boundary of Harsha's domain and highlighted the formidable power of the southern Chalukya kingdom.

**40.** (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
Harshavardhana was known for his energetic governance, frequently touring his empire to inspect administrative details and redress grievances personally. However, the legal system during his reign was notably severe rather than lenient. Historical accounts indicate that the penal code included harsh punishments, such as mutilation and imprisonment, to maintain social order and deter crime across his vast northern Indian territories.

**41.** (C) Mahayana Buddhism
Initially a devout worshipper of Shiva, Harshavardhana later became a great patron and practitioner of Mahayana Buddhism. His religious transformation was significantly influenced by his interactions with the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang. In his later years, he dedicated considerable resources to Buddhist causes, organizing massive religious assemblies and supporting the monastic community while maintaining a policy of general tolerance toward other faiths.

**42.** (A) Prayag (Allahabad)
Harshavardhana organized a grand assembly known as the Moksha Parishad every five years at the confluence of the rivers in Prayag. During this quinquennial event, the king demonstrated his legendary generosity by distributing his accumulated wealth among scholars, the poor, and religious institutions. These gatherings were attended by thousands of participants, including high-ranking officials and prominent foreign visitors like Hiuen Tsang.

**43.** (D) Nalanda
Nalanda University reached its greatest heights under the royal patronage of Harshavardhana. He granted the revenue of numerous villages to support the institution, which attracted thousands of students and scholars from across Asia. As a premier center for Mahayana Buddhist learning, it offered a diverse curriculum, including logic, grammar, and philosophy, symbolizing the intellectual vitality of the Indian subcontinent.

**44.** (B) The region south of the Narmada river
At its zenith, Harshavardhana's empire covered a significant portion of Northern and Eastern India, including Thanesar, Kannauj, and parts of Bengal. However, his authority never extended into the southern peninsula. His southern expansion was permanently halted at the Narmada river by the Chalukyan forces. Therefore, the territories

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reign thus represents the final period of unified imperial strength before the dynasty's gradual decline.

**115.** (A) I and II only
The Pallava era was a transformative period for Southern Indian culture, witnessing the foundational development of the Dravidian architectural style. It was also the golden age of the Bhakti movement, led by the Nayanar and Alvar saints who promoted emotional devotion to Shiva and Vishnu. While Sanskrit remained a language of high scholarship, the Pallava kings were also significant patrons of Tamil literature and culture.

**116.** (D) Rajaraja I and Rajendra I
The imperial Cholas became a formidable maritime power during the reigns of Rajaraja I and his son Rajendra I. They developed a sophisticated navy that allowed them to conquer Sri Lanka and launch successful expeditions against the Srivijaya kingdom in Southeast Asia. This naval supremacy secured Chola control over vital Indian Ocean trade routes and established them as a dominant force across the entire regional coastline.

**117.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Harshavardhana's empire was characterized by a decentralized administrative structure compared to the earlier Mauryan state. His authority relied on a complex network of feudal relationships, where numerous subordinate kings and local chieftains retained autonomy in exchange for military support and tribute. This reliance on personal loyalty and a tiered hierarchy meant that the empire's unity was closely tied to Harsha's personal leadership and military success.

**118.** (B) Avantivarman
Avantivarman was the enlightened founder of the Utpala dynasty in Kashmir. His reign followed the decline of the Karkotas and is remembered as a period of recovery and prosperity. He focused on internal administration and commissioned major irrigation projects under the engineer Suyya to prevent floods and improve agriculture. He was also a patron of arts, founding the city of Avantipura and its magnificent temples.

**119.** (D) Repetitive invasions of the Pallava capital Kanchi
Vikramaditya II was one of the most successful military leaders of the Chalukyas of Vatapi. His reign was defined by his decisive victories over the rival Pallavas, leading his forces into their capital city, Kanchi, on three separate occasions. Unlike previous conquerors, he showed great respect for the city's religious monuments, even donating gold to the Kailasanatha temple, demonstrating a sophisticated approach to victory and cultural heritage.

**120.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Medieval India is home to several iconic architectural wonders spread across different regions. The rock-cut Kailasa Temple is the crowning jewel of the Ellora caves. The Brihadeshwara Temple stands as a monumental landmark in Tanjore. The Sun Temple at Modhera is a masterpiece of Western Indian design. Meanwhile, the Shore Temple is a classic example of early structural architecture located at the coastal site of Mamallapuram.

**121.** (C) Mayurasharman
Mayurasharman was the legendary founder of the Kadamba dynasty, the first major indigenous ruling house of Karnataka. Traditionally a Brahmin scholar who turned into a warrior after being humiliated at the Pallava court, he established his independence and founded his capital at Banavasi. His rise to power symbolized the emergence of local political identity in the region, which would flourish under his successors for several generations.

**122.** (A) They were constantly at war with the Palas of Bengal.
The Solanki dynasty governed Gujarat with great success, making their capital Anhilwara a major cultural center. They were noted for their religious tolerance, patronizing both Shaivism and Jainism, and their court hosted scholars like Hemachandra. While they engaged in regional conflicts, they were not constantly at war with the Palas of Bengal, as the two dynasties operated in geographically distant parts of the Indian subcontinent.

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modern village of Malkhed in the Gulbarga district of Karnataka. For nearly two centuries, this city served as the heart of one of India's most powerful empires, attracting scholars, poets, and diplomats from across the subcontinent. Its location in the Deccan heartland allowed the Rashtrakutas to effectively project their power into both northern and southern India.

**190.** (D) Control over the fertile Raichur doab
The long-standing conflict between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas was primarily driven by the desire to control the Raichur Doab, a fertile region between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers. This territory was economically significant due to its agricultural productivity and strategic location. The struggle for this doab persisted for generations, leading to multiple wars and shaping the political boundaries and military strategies of the southern regional powers.

**191.** (A) 2, 1, 3, 4
The succession of major Indian dynasties follows a clear chronological progression from the classical era to the early medieval period. The Gupta dynasty first established a vast empire in the fourth century. Following their decline, the Vardhana dynasty rose to prominence in the seventh century. Later, the Pala dynasty emerged in Bengal during the eighth century, followed by the rise of the imperial Cholas in the ninth century.

**192.** (C) I and III only
During Harsha's reign, Nalanda served as the foremost center of learning, attracting scholars from across Asia with its high academic standards. Harsha himself was a great patron of education and surrounded himself with brilliant minds like his court poet Banabhatta. While the university was a major Buddhist center, the curriculum was not exclusively religious, as it included secular subjects such as grammar, logic, medicine, and mathematics.

**193.** (B) Western Ganga
The colossal monolithic statue of Gommateshwara at Shravanabelagola is one of the most iconic religious monuments in India. It was commissioned in the late tenth century by Chavundaraya, who was a high-ranking minister and general of the Western Ganga dynasty. The statue reflects the dynasty's deep devotion to Jainism and represents a peak of their artistic achievement, remaining a site of profound spiritual significance and architectural wonder.

**194.** (A) THE Ganges valley
Rajendra Chola I assumed the prestigious title of Gangaikonda after leading a successful military expedition that reached the banks of the river Ganga in the north. This campaign was a symbolic demonstration of Chola imperial reach, aimed at establishing their status as a paramount power. To commemorate this victory, he also founded the city of Gangaikondacholapuram, which served as the capital of the empire for several centuries.

**195.** (C) Vakataka
The history of the Vakataka dynasty features a significant period of stable governance under Prabhavatigupta, the daughter of Chandragupta II. Following the early death of her husband, Rudrasena II, she served as the queen-regent for her minor sons. Her long and capable administration maintained the strength of the Vakataka kingdom and ensured continued close relations with the Gupta empire, demonstrating the influential role of royal women in ancient politics.

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**196.** (D) Eastern Chalukyas
The Chalukyas of Vengi are commonly referred to as the Eastern Chalukyas to distinguish them from the main line based at Vatapi. This branch was established after the conquest of the coastal Andhra region by Pulakeshin II, who appointed his brother as the governor. Over time, they became an independent dynasty that ruled for several centuries, playing a crucial role in the development of regional Telugu culture and politics.

**197.** (C) THE position of women improved significantly with total gender equality.
While the Gupta period is celebrated for its cultural achievements, social life remained defined by a rigid hierarchy. The caste system became more entrenched, and the practice of untouchability forced certain groups to live in isolation. Although women from elite families received education and held some property rights, the overall social structure did not provide

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in bronze casting. The Nataraja icon stands as the quintessential example of this tradition. Beyond sculpture, the Cholas were also patrons of painting, with vibrant murals surviving on the interior walls of the Brihadeshwara temple. These artistic achievements reflect a highly sophisticated culture where religious devotion and imperial grandeur were seamlessly integrated.

**132.** (D) THE death of a hero in battle or a woman committing Sati
Memorial stones were widely used across ancient and medieval India to commemorate acts of extreme sacrifice. These monuments, often called Viragals, were dedicated to warriors who died defending their community or kingdom. Other stones, known as Mastikals, were raised to honor women who performed Sati. They serve as valuable archaeological records, illustrating the social values, local conflicts, and commemorative traditions of different regional societies.

**133.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The control of Kannauj became the ultimate symbol of imperial status in North India after the decline of the Gupta and Vardhana empires. The Rashtrakutas, despite being a southern power, repeatedly campaigned in the north to assert their dominance over this prestigious city. This tripartite struggle with the Palas and Pratiharas was driven by the city's strategic location and its reputation as the seat of paramount sovereignty.

**134.** (B) A beehive-shaped tower called Shikhara
The Nagara style of temple architecture, which flourished in Northern India, is primarily distinguished by its characteristic tower. This spire, known as the Shikhara, has a curvilinear outline that tapers toward the top, often ending in a disc-like element called an amalaka. This design differs significantly from the tiered, pyramidal towers of the south, representing a unique aesthetic evolution in the northern regional tradition.

**135.** (D) Vishnuvardhana
Vishnuvardhana was the first truly powerful monarch of the Hoysala dynasty. Originally a Jain, he converted to Vaishnavism under the influence of the philosopher Ramanuja. To celebrate his military victories and his new religious faith, he commissioned the magnificent Chennakeshava temple at Belur. His reign marked the transformation of the Hoysalas from local chieftains into a dominant imperial force in the southern Deccan region.

**136.** (A) THE Vakatakas were eventually annexed and absorbed into the Gupta empire.
The relationship between the Guptas and Vakatakas was one of strategic partnership rather than annexation. The alliance was cemented by the marriage of Prabhavatigupta to Rudrasena II, which provided the Guptas with crucial support against the Shakas. Although the Vakatakas were influenced by Gupta culture and administration, they remained an independent and powerful dynasty in the Deccan until their own eventual decline in the sixth century.

**137.** (C) Jayadeva
The court of the Sena king Lakshmana Sena was a renowned center for Sanskrit learning and poetry. The most celebrated figure among the court poets was Jayadeva, the author of the Gita Govinda. This lyrical masterpiece, which explores the divine love between Radha and Krishna, had a profound impact on Indian literature and the Bhakti movement, reflecting the vibrant cultural environment of the medieval Sena kingdom.

**138.** (A) Vengi
The Eastern Chalukyas were a durable dynasty that ruled the coastal regions of modern-day Andhra Pradesh for several centuries. They established their capital at Vengi, a strategic location between the Krishna and Godavari rivers. This line emerged as a distinct branch of the Chalukya family and played a significant role in regional politics, eventually merging with the Cholas through a major matrimonial alliance.

**139.** (D) Marco Polo
Queen Rudramadevi was a rare and powerful female monarch who governed the Kakatiya kingdom with great skill during the thirteenth century. Her reign and the prosperity of her kingdom were noted by the famous Venetian traveler Marco Polo, who visited the region during his journey. He praised her administrative abilities and the high level of security and

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commercial activity in her territories, providing a rare foreign perspective on her rule.

**140.** (B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
Ancient India was home to several prestigious universities that flourished under royal patronage. Nalanda grew into a global center with Gupta support, while Vikramashila was established by the Pala dynasty in the east. Vallabhi became a major seat of learning under the Maitraka rulers in Gujarat. Meanwhile, Kanchi served as a premier center for both Sanskrit and Tamil studies under the patronage of the Pallava kings.

**141.** (C) Kurrams (groups of villages)
The Chola administrative hierarchy was meticulously organized for effective localized control. Below the district level, known as the Nadu, were smaller clusters of villages called Kurrams. These units served as the basic building blocks of the administrative system, where local assemblies managed communal affairs. This structured arrangement allowed for the efficient collection of revenue and the maintenance of order from the central capital down to the village level.

**142.** (D) Thanesar
The Vardhana dynasty, which eventually produced the great emperor Harshavardhana, began its rise to power in the region of modern-day Haryana. Their original capital was Thanesar, where they established themselves as a significant regional power following the decline of the Gupta empire. It was only after the expansion of his authority that Harsha shifted the political headquarters of his burgeoning empire to the more central city of Kannauj.

**143.** (A) Varmana of Kamrupa
The term Dakshinapatha historically refers to the regions of India located south of the Vindhya mountains and the Narmada river. Dynasties like the Yadavas, Hoysalas, and Kakatiyas all established their kingdoms within this southern geographic zone. In contrast, the Varman dynasty ruled over Kamarupa, which corresponds to modern-day Assam in the northeastern part of the country, thus falling outside the traditional boundaries of the Dakshinapatha.

**144.** (B) THE frequent travels of Buddhist monks and wandering scholars.
During the Gupta period, the relationship between India and China was primarily intellectual and religious in nature. This contact was maintained not through military means but through the dedicated efforts of Buddhist pilgrims and scholars who traveled along the Silk Road or maritime routes. These individuals facilitated the exchange of sacred texts, artistic styles, and philosophical ideas, creating a lasting cultural bond between the two great civilizations.

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**145.** (B) 2, 4, 3, 1
The transition from the classical to the early medieval period in India is defined by the reigns of several key monarchs. Chandragupta II represented the peak of Gupta imperial power in the fourth century. In the early seventh century, the southern peninsula saw the rise of Mahendravarman I, while the Deccan and the North were dominated by Pulakeshin II and Harshavardhana, respectively, as they competed for regional supremacy.

**146.** (A) I and II only
Mahendravarman I was a multifaceted Pallava king who made enduring contributions to Indian culture. He pioneered the creation of rock-cut cave temples in the Tamil region and was himself a talented author, writing the satirical Sanskrit play Mattavilasa Prahasana. However, his military career was marked by intense rivalry with Pulakeshin II, who successfully invaded his territories and remained a formidable challenger throughout his reign.

**147.** (C) Amoghavarsha I
Amoghavarsha I was the most famous Rashtrakuta emperor, celebrated for his long reign and profound interest in literature and religion. He authored the Kavirajamarga, a foundational work on Kannada poetics, earning him the title Nripatunga. Unlike many of his predecessors, he favored peace and diplomacy over expansionist wars and was a devoted patron of Jainism, making his reign a golden age for Kannada and Jaina culture.

**148.** (D) Jainism
The Western Ganga dynasty played a vital role in the history of Karnataka, particularly through

their long-standing support for Jainism. Many Ganga monarchs and their high-ranking officials were devout Jains who commissioned temples, promoted Jaina literature, and established monastic centers. This patronage culminated in the creation of the monumental Gommateshwara statue, which remains one of the most important symbols of Jaina artistic and spiritual heritage in India.

**149.** (C) It was a period of Brahmanical ascendancy and Vaishnavism.
The Gupta era is characterized by a significant revival of Brahmanical Hinduism, with the emperors primarily identifying as devotees of Vishnu. This period saw the codification of the Puranas and the rise of the Bhakti movement. While other religions like Buddhism and Jainism continued to exist and even receive some support, the overall religious atmosphere was defined by the increasing prominence of Vedic and Puranic traditions.

**150.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Chola dynasty developed one of the most sophisticated and powerful naval forces in the ancient world. This maritime strength was essential for their imperial expansion, allowing them to cross the Bay of Bengal to conquer Sri Lanka and Maldives. Furthermore, it enabled them to launch successful expeditions into Southeast Asia, securing control over vital trade routes and facilitating extensive cultural and commercial interactions across the Indian Ocean.

**151.** (D) Western Chalukyas of the later period
The Chalukyas of Kalyani are often called the Later Western Chalukyas to distinguish them from the earlier line of Vatapi. They rose to power in the late tenth century by overthrowing the Rashtrakutas. Based in the northern Deccan, they became a major imperial force for two centuries, engaged in constant warfare with the Cholas while fostering a rich cultural and architectural tradition that further evolved the Vesara style.

**152.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The history of the Karkota dynasty is well-documented in the Rajatarangini, the famous historical chronicle by the poet Kalhana. The most illustrious ruler of this line was Lalitaditya Muktapida, whose military and architectural achievements are highlighted in the text. His legacy is physically preserved in the ruins of the magnificent Martand Sun Temple, which represents a unique synthesis of regional and international architectural influences in Kashmir.

**153.** (C) THE Chalukyas of Vatapi
The political history of Southern India for several centuries was dominated by the intense rivalry between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas of Vatapi. These two dynasties were locked in a long-drawn conflict for regional supremacy and control over fertile territories like the Raichur Doab. This struggle led to repeated invasions of each other's capitals and significantly shaped the military and architectural developments of the early medieval southern peninsula.

**154.** (A) Chola
Chola administration is exceptionally famous for its high degree of localized autonomy and the systematic organization of village governance. Communities were managed by assemblies that operated through specialized committees, known as variyams, responsible for tasks like irrigation, justice, and temple affairs. This system of elected local bodies ensured efficient administration and stable social order, marking a unique achievement in the history of Indian political organization.

**155.** (D) Jagati
A characteristic feature of Hoysala temple architecture is the elevated foundation upon which the entire structure is built. This raised platform, known as the Jagati, follows the star-shaped plan of the temple and provides a wide walkway for circumambulation. By elevating the shrine, the architects enhanced its visual impact and provided additional surfaces for the intricate friezes that depict various mythological scenes and daily life.

**156.** (B) Peace and War
In the sophisticated administrative hierarchy of the Gupta empire, the Sandhivigrahika held a position of critical importance. This official served as the minister of peace and war, essentially acting as the chief diplomat and advisor on foreign relations. They were responsible for drafting royal inscriptions, managing alliances, and coordinating military campaigns, reflecting

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the empire's highly organized approach to both domestic governance and international diplomacy.

**157.** (C) THE defeat of the Hunas and assumption of the title 'Vikramaditya'
Samudragupta was a legendary conqueror and polymath whose achievements are detailed in the Allahabad Prashasti. He performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice to celebrate his imperial reach and was a gifted musician, earning the title Kaviraja. However, the defeat of the Hunas and the adoption of the title Vikramaditya are primarily associated with his successors, Skandagupta and Chandragupta II, respectively, rather than with Samudragupta himself.

**158.** (D) Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha)
The Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful and influential structural temples of Southern India. It was commissioned by the Pallava king Narasimhavarman II, also known as Rajasimha, during the early eighth century. The temple's sophisticated design, featuring a large vimana and numerous sub-shrines, served as an architectural prototype for later grand temples, including the Chola Brihadeshwara and the Rashtrakuta Kailasa.

**159.** (A) Pulakeshin II
The Chalukya king Pulakeshin II achieved legendary status by successfully defending the Deccan against the expansionist ambitions of Harshavardhana. Their decisive encounter took place on the banks of the Narmada river, where the Chalukyan forces effectively checked Harsha's southward march. This victory confirmed Pulakeshin II as the paramount lord of the south and established a long-standing territorial boundary between the major powers of northern and southern India.

**160.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
The medieval kingdoms of Southern India and the Deccan established major political centers that became hubs of culture and administration. The Hoysalas ruled from Dwarsamudra, while the Kakatiyas centered their power at Warangal. The Yadavas established a formidable headquarters at the hill fort of Devagiri. In the far south, the Pallavas governed their extensive territories from the sacred and ancient city of Kanchipuram.

**161.** (B) A hybrid style of temple architecture combining Nagara and Dravida features
The Vesara style represents a sophisticated synthesis in Indian temple architecture, emerging primarily in the Deccan region. It integrates the curvilinear towers characteristic of the northern Nagara tradition with the tiered, ornate structures typical of the southern Dravida style. This hybrid form flourished under dynasties like the Chalukyas and Hoysalas, who experimented with diverse architectural elements to create unique and visually complex religious monuments.

**162.** (A) Historical biography
The Harshacharita, authored by the court poet Banabhatta, is a landmark work in Sanskrit literature as it represents one of the earliest examples of a royal biography. While the text contains poetic embellishments and mythological references, it provides a detailed historical narrative of the early life and rise to power of Harshavardhana. It remains a vital source for understanding seventh-century Indian political and social history.

**163.** (C) THE Senas
The political landscape of medieval Bengal underwent a major change when the Pala dynasty was eventually succeeded by the Senas. Originating from the south, the Sena rulers established their authority over the region in the late eleventh century. Their rise marked a shift from the Buddhist patronage of the Palas to a strong emphasis on Brahmanical Hinduism and Sanskrit literature, significantly influencing the cultural development of Bengal.

**164.** (A) I and II only
The Rashtrakuta dynasty was founded by Dantidurga, who transformed the family from feudatories into a dominant imperial power. They were eventually overthrown by the Later Chalukyas of Kalyani in the tenth century. Far from being confined to the Deccan, the Rashtrakutas were famous for their repeated and successful military incursions into Northern India, where they played a decisive role in the tripartite struggle for Kannauj.

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**165.** (C) THE entire Indian subcontinent south of the Vindhyas
Dakshinapatha is an ancient geographical term that literally means the southern path. In historical contexts, it generally refers to the vast territories of India located south of the Vindhya mountain range and the Narmada river. This region was home to several powerful dynasties and served as a crucial hub for trade and cultural exchange, linking the northern plains with the coastal areas of the southern peninsula.

**166.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Gupta period witnessed a significant expansion of Indian cultural and economic influence across Southeast Asia. This interaction was deeply rooted in the spread of religious ideas, as Buddhist and Hindu missions traveled across the seas. Simultaneously, vigorous maritime trade driven by demand for spices and luxury goods created strong commercial links. These combined factors led to the gradual Indianization of regional kingdoms throughout Southeast Asia.

**167.** (D) Varahamihira - Medical science
The Gupta era was a period of extraordinary intellectual achievement across various fields. Aryabhata revolutionized mathematics and astronomy, while Kalidasa produced timeless Sanskrit literature. The Deogarh temple showcased the evolution of early Nagara architecture. However, Varahamihira was a celebrated astronomer and polymath, not a medical scientist. Medical science during this period was more closely associated with figures like Sushruta or the earlier works of Charaka.

**168.** (A) Kannauj
The Tripartite Struggle was a long-term geopolitical conflict focused on the control of Kannauj. Following the reign of Harsha, the city became a symbol of paramount sovereignty in Northern India. The Gurjara-Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas each sought to possess the city to legitimize their imperial claims. This intense competition defined the political history of the eighth and ninth centuries, eventually weakening all three major powers involved.

**169.** (C) Mahabalipuram
Narasimhavarman I, the illustrious Pallava king, founded the coastal city of Mamallapuram, which is commonly known today as Mahabalipuram. He developed the site as a major port and a center for artistic innovation, commissioning the famous monolithic rathas and various rock-cut shrines. The city's name reflects the king's own title, Mamalla, and it remains one of India's most important archaeological and cultural landmarks.

**170.** (A) Dominance of Shaivism with notable tolerance towards other sects.
Religious life under the Chola dynasty was primarily defined by the fervent practice of Shaivism, as evidenced by the massive temples dedicated to Shiva. However, the Chola rulers generally maintained a policy of religious pluralism and tolerance. They provided grants to Buddhist monasteries, Jain shrines, and Vaishnavite temples, ensuring that diverse religious traditions could flourish within their empire while maintaining Shiva as their primary imperial deity.

**171.** (D) Hemachandra
The Solanki rulers Jayasimha Siddharaja and Kumarapala were greatly influenced by the legendary polymath Hemachandra. As a prominent Jaina scholar and advisor, Hemachandra played a crucial role in the intellectual life of the Gujarat court. Under his guidance, Kumarapala even adopted Jainism and implemented laws based on Jaina principles, demonstrating the significant influence that scholarly monks held over the medieval administration of Western India.

**172.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The political history of the Deccan is marked by the recurring rivalry between the Rashtrakutas and the Chalukyas. Dantidurga successfully eliminated the early Chalukya power to establish the Rashtrakuta empire. Centuries later, the cycle repeated when Tailapa II, representing a later branch known as the Chalukyas of Kalyani, overthrew the last Rashtrakuta ruler to re-establish Chalukyan dominance. This succession illustrates the dynamic and cyclical nature of regional power.

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**173.** (C) THE Rashtrakutas
The monolithic Kailasa temple at Ellora is a unparalleled masterpiece of medieval engineering and art, commissioned by the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I. Carved entirely from a single granite hillside, the project required the removal of hundreds of thousands of tons of rock. This monumental structure serves as the ultimate symbol of the Rashtrakuta dynasty's immense wealth, religious devotion, and their ability to mobilize sophisticated artistic labor.

**174.** (D) Chalukyas of Vengi - Gujarat
Correctly matching medieval dynasties with their geographic heartlands is essential for historical clarity. The Palas ruled Bengal, while the Rashtrakutas and Pallavas dominated the Deccan and Tamil Nadu, respectively. However, the Chalukyas of Vengi were an eastern branch based in the coastal Andhra region. Gujarat was actually governed by the Solankis, also known as the Chaulukyas of Gujarat, making the Vengi-Gujarat association historically incorrect.

**175.** (A) Rajendra I
Rajendra I projected Chola power far beyond the Indian mainland by launching a massive naval campaign against the Srivijaya kingdom in Southeast Asia. This expedition was primarily aimed at securing unrestricted access to trade routes with China and asserting maritime dominance. The success of this naval operation demonstrated the extraordinary reach and military sophistication of the Chola navy, making them a paramount power across the Indian Ocean.

**176.** (B) Prabhakaravardhana was the first ruler to assume the title 'Maharajadhiraja'.
The Vardhana dynasty rose to prominence under Prabhakaravardhana, who was the first in the family to assume the imperial title of Maharajadhiraja. While the dynasty was founded by earlier ancestors, his leadership established them as a major force in Northern India. He was the father of Rajyavardhana and Harshavardhana, and his successful military campaigns laid the foundation for the vast empire that Harsha would eventually consolidate.

**177.** (B) Three principal styles of Indian temple architecture
In the study of Indian art history, the terms Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara refer to the three major regional styles of temple architecture. Nagara is the predominant northern style, Dravida is the classic southern form, and Vesara represents the hybrid style of the Deccan. These classifications are based on distinct structural features, particularly the design of the tower or spire, and reflect the diverse cultural evolutions across the subcontinent.

**178.** (A) Brahmagupta
The Gupta period was a golden age of scientific discovery, fostering the work of several brilliant mathematicians and astronomers. Brahmagupta is particularly noted for his groundbreaking contributions, including the use of zero and early concepts related to the law of gravity. His works accurately calculated the length of the solar year and influenced subsequent scientific thought in both India and the Islamic world, showcasing the period's intellectual depth.

**179.** (C) He was elected as king by the nobles to end a period of anarchy.
The founding of the Pala dynasty by Gopala is a unique event in Indian history. Following a long period of internal chaos and external invasions in Bengal, known as matsyanayaka, the leading nobles and citizens chose Gopala to be their king. This rare instance of elective monarchy brought much-needed stability to the region and allowed the Palas to eventually build one of the most powerful empires in medieval India.

**180.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Early medieval Indian history is richly documented through various literary and epigraphic works. Banabhatta authored the Harshacharita, a biography of his patron king. Ravikirti composed the poetic Aihole inscription for Pulakeshin II. Harisena wrote the celebrated Allahabad Prashasti for Samudragupta. Meanwhile, Jayadeva composed the Gita Govinda, a masterpiece of devotional poetry that reflects the cultural vitality of the later medieval period in Bengal.

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**181.** (A) I and II only
The Hoysala dynasty governed from their capital at Dwarsamudra and is renowned for creating a highly distinct and ornate architectural style. Their temples are characterized by intricate stone carvings and unique star-shaped plans. While they were a major southern power, Rajaraja I was an imperial Chola ruler, not a Hoysala king. The most famous Hoysala monarchs include figures like Vishnuvardhana and Ballala II, who expanded the kingdom's influence.

**182.** (B) State or Province
The administrative hierarchy of the Gupta empire was organized into several territorial layers. The largest of these divisions was the Bhukti, which is comparable to a modern-day state or province. These large regions were governed by high officials called Uparikas. This system of provincial administration was essential for maintaining central control over the vast and diverse territories that comprised the imperial Gupta domain across Northern and Central India.

**183.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Pallava period is historically significant for witnessing a massive resurgence of Brahmanical Hinduism in Southern India. This revival was primarily driven by the Bhakti movement, where saints like the Nayanars and Alvars traveled across the land, composing emotional hymns in Tamil. The Pallava kings provided extensive royal patronage for this movement, commissioning numerous temples and supporting religious institutions, which gradually reduced the influence of Buddhism and Jainism.

**184.** (A) Karnataka
The Kadamba dynasty was a significant early medieval power located in the western region of the Deccan. Their kingdom primarily occupied territories within modern-day Karnataka, with their capital at Banavasi. They are historically important for being one of the first indigenous dynasties to use the local language for administration and for fostering an independent regional culture that paved the way for later powerful southern empires.

**185.** (C) Harshavardhana
The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang traveled extensively throughout India during the seventh century, spending several years at the court of Harshavardhana. His detailed accounts provide a firsthand look at the king's administration, religious policies, and the grand assemblies he organized. Hiuen Tsang's observations offer invaluable insights into the social, economic, and religious conditions of northern India during this transitional period between ancient and medieval times.

**186.** (A) Chandragupta II
Chandragupta II, also known as Vikramaditya, earned the title Sakari, or the destroyer of the Shakas, after his decisive victory over the Western Kshatrapas. This military achievement ended centuries of foreign rule in Western India and significantly enhanced the prestige of the Gupta dynasty. By assuming the title Vikramaditya, he linked his reign to legendary heroism, marking a period of unprecedented cultural and political success for the empire.

**187.** (D) A group of villages or a sub-district
In the Chola administrative system, the Nadu served as a vital intermediate level of governance. It consisted of a cluster of villages and functioned as a sub-district where local affairs were managed by an assembly of residents. This unit played a crucial role in land revenue assessment, justice, and the implementation of central policies, reflecting the organized and decentralized nature of the Chola imperial administration.

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**188.** (B) THE Five Rathas at Mahabalipuram
The Five Rathas at Mahabalipuram are among the finest surviving examples of Pallava rock-cut architecture. These monolithic structures were carved directly from large granite boulders during the seventh century. Each shrine represents a different architectural form, showcasing the dynasty's creativity and their pioneering role in developing the Dravidian style. These monuments are world-renowned for their historical significance and the extraordinary skill of the Pallava sculptors.

**189.** (C) Karnataka
Manyakheta, the illustrious capital of the Rashtrakuta empire, is identified with the

**123.** (D) A woman's own property
Dharmashastra texts describe Stridhana as property that is exclusively owned by a woman. This wealth usually included gifts received from her parents, siblings, or husband during various stages of her life, especially at the time of marriage. Legal traditions emphasized that a woman maintained absolute rights over this property, which provided her with a level of financial independence and security within the traditional family structure.

**124.** (B) THE Delhi Sultanate
The Yadavas of Devgiri were a dominant power in the Deccan until the end of the thirteenth century. Their independent rule was challenged by the expansionist policies of the Delhi Sultanate. Following multiple invasions led by Alauddin Khalji and later Malik Kafur, the Yadava kingdom was eventually subjugated and its territories were annexed. This transition marked the end of ancient regional dynasties and the beginning of Sultanate influence in the south.

**125.** (C) Allahabad Pillar Inscription
The Varman dynasty of Kamarupa is historically documented in the Allahabad Pillar inscription of Samudragupta. In this record, the Kamarupa ruler is mentioned among the frontier kings who acknowledged Gupta suzerainty by paying tribute and following imperial commands. This reference provides essential chronological evidence for the existence of an organized kingdom in ancient Assam during the fourth century and its relationship with the Gupta empire.

**126.** (A) 4, 2, 3, 1
The political history of South India and the Deccan is defined by a succession of major empires. The Chalukyas of Vatapi first rose to dominance, followed by the Pallavas who controlled much of the south. Subsequently, the Rashtrakutas overthrew the Chalukyas to establish their supremacy. Finally, the imperial Cholas emerged from their earlier status to become the most powerful maritime empire in the ninth and tenth centuries.

**127.** (A) An agrarian-focused economy with localized trade and some decline in urban centers.
Hiuen Tsang's accounts suggest that the Indian economy during Harsha's reign had become increasingly centered on agriculture. While trade still existed, it was more localized compared to the flourishing international commerce of the earlier Roman period. Some ancient urban centers showed signs of decline, and the use of metal currency was less widespread, indicating a transition toward a more feudal and land-based economic organization.

**128.** (B) Vajrayana (Tantric) Buddhism
Vikramashila University, established by the Pala king Dharmapala, became the most important center for Vajrayana Buddhism. It specialized in the study of tantric traditions, attracting numerous scholars from Tibet and other parts of Asia. The institution played a crucial role in the dissemination of these complex Buddhist philosophies and served as a major intellectual hub until its destruction during the medieval Turkic invasions.

**129.** (B) Kashmir
The Lohara dynasty was the final major Hindu ruling family of the Kashmir valley, succeeding the Utpalas in the early eleventh century. Their reign is documented in great detail in Kalhana's Rajatarangini. Although the period was often marked by internal court intrigues and external pressures, the Loharas managed to maintain the political independence of the valley for several generations before the eventual transition to Islamic rule.

**130.** (A) Aihole, Badami, and Pattadakal
The architectural genius of the Chalukyas of Vatapi is best preserved at the group of sites located in the Malaprabha river valley. Aihole serves as a laboratory of diverse temple forms, while Badami is famous for its intricate rock-cut cave shrines. Pattadakal represents the culmination of their style, featuring a blend of northern and southern architectural traditions that later earned it recognition as a world heritage site.

**131.** (D) I, II and III
Chola art is globally celebrated for its technical mastery and aesthetic elegance, particularly

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total gender equality, as patriarchal norms and practices like early marriage became increasingly common.

**198.** (B) Narmada
The historic confrontation between the northern emperor Harshavardhana and the southern king Pulakeshin II occurred on the banks of the Narmada river. This battle was a decisive moment in early medieval history, as the Chalukyan victory effectively limited Harsha's expansionist ambitions to the northern plains. The Narmada thus became the recognized boundary between the two most powerful empires of the period, securing the independence of the southern Deccan.

**199.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Pala rulers of Bengal and Bihar were distinguished by their extraordinary support for Buddhist learning. They established new institutions like Vikramashila and provided extensive endowments to revive older centers like Nalanda. These universities became international hubs, attracting students from across Asia and preserving sacred texts. The Palas' patronage ensured that Buddhism remained an intellectually vibrant tradition in India for several centuries during the early medieval period.

**200.** (A) THE Vaghelas and later the Delhi Sultanate
The Solanki dynasty's long and prosperous rule in Gujarat gradually weakened due to internal conflicts and external pressures. They were eventually succeeded by their feudatories, the Vaghelas, who managed to govern for a few more decades. However, the region's independent Hindu rule came to a final end in the late thirteenth century when Gujarat was conquered and annexed by the expansionist forces of the Delhi Sultanate.

**201.** (B) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
Southern Indian dynasties each contributed uniquely to the evolution of temple architecture. The Pallavas pioneered rock-cut rathas at Mahabalipuram. The imperial Cholas perfected the Dravidian style with massive structural vimanas, such as at Tanjore. The Rashtrakutas are famous for the monumental monolithic Kailasa temple at Ellora. Meanwhile, the Hoysalas developed an incredibly ornate style featuring star-shaped temple plans and detailed stone carvings across the Deccan plateau.

**202.** (A) Rajatarangini
The Rajatarangini, authored by the Kashmiri poet Kalhana in the twelfth century, is the most authoritative historical source for the dynasties of the Kashmir valley. This poetic chronicle provides a detailed and relatively objective account of the Karkota, Utpala, and Lohara rulers. It is unique in Sanskrit literature for its chronological precision and its critical assessment of political events, making it an essential text for understanding medieval Indian history.

**203.** (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
While gold coins were a hallmark of the Gupta era, it was Chandragupta I who first issued them to mark his imperial status. These coins, often called Dinars, were struck with high-quality gold and featured diverse, artistic depictions of the emperors in various roles. They served as a symbol of economic prosperity and royal power, illustrating the dynasty's significant role in the monetization and cultural expression of ancient India.

**204.** (B) Bhaskaravarman
Bhaskaravarman was the most illustrious ruler of the Varman dynasty of Kamarupa. As a contemporary and strategic ally of Harshavardhana, he played a prominent role in northern Indian politics during the seventh century. He accompanied Harsha at various religious assemblies and diplomatic events. His reign is noted for the growth of Kamarupa's prestige and for his interactions with foreign pilgrims like Hiuen Tsang, who visited his eastern kingdom.

**205.** (C) Narasimhavarman I
Narasimhavarman I achieved a landmark military success by leading a large-scale invasion into the heart of the Chalukyan empire. His forces successfully captured and sacked the capital city of Vatapi, a feat that earned him the title Vatapikonda. This victory was a significant reversal of fortune in the long-drawn Pallava-Chalukya conflict and demonstrated the peak of Pallava military power during the mid-seventh

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integrated the island into their maritime empire, facilitating direct control over important trade routes for several decades.

**222.** (D) Sanskrit language, a southern Brahmi script
The Aihole inscription is a landmark historical document of the seventh century. It was composed in sophisticated Sanskrit verse by the poet Ravikirti and written in a southern variant of the Brahmi script. This poetic panegyric details the victories of the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II, including his famous defeat of Harshavardhana. The inscription provides crucial evidence for the chronology and geographic extent of the Chalukyan empire during its most powerful period.

**223.** (A) Avantivarman
Avantivarman was the enlightened founder of the Utpala dynasty in Kashmir, rising to power after the decline of the Karkotas. His reign is celebrated for its focus on internal peace, administrative reform, and the promotion of agriculture through extensive irrigation works. He was a great patron of the arts and founded the city of Avantipura. His leadership brought stability to the valley, making his era one of the most prosperous in medieval Kashmiri history.

**224.** (B) Vishnuvardhana
The imperial Chola dynasty featured several legendary monarchs who built a vast maritime empire, including Rajaraja I, Rajendra I, and Kulottunga I. These kings were responsible for significant territorial expansions and magnificent architectural monuments. In contrast, Vishnuvardhana was a prominent ruler of the Hoysala dynasty in the Deccan. While a great king in his own right, he belonged to a different regional power that eventually competed with the Cholas for supremacy.

**225.** (B) THE Pallavas
The Pallavas played a revolutionary role in the history of Indian architecture by managing the transition from rock-cut shrines to structural stone temples. This evolution began with simple cave excavations, progressed through monolithic rathas, and culminated in complex structures like the Shore Temple and the Kailasanatha. This shift represents a major advancement in building technology and design, laying the fundamental groundwork for the grand Dravidian style that would dominate Southern India for centuries.

**226.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The classical and early medieval periods in India produced foundational texts across numerous intellectual domains. Aryabhata's work focused on the scientific principles of astronomy and mathematics. Banabhatta wrote a detailed historical biography of King Harsha. Vatsyayana authored a comprehensive treatise on the social and erotic aspects of urban life. Meanwhile, Jayadeva composed lyrical devotional poetry that explored divine love, reflecting the diverse intellectual and artistic interests of the era.

**227.** (C) Non-Brahmin, tax-paying residents of a regular village
In the local administrative system of the Pallava and Chola periods, the Ur was the assembly of the common residents in a standard village. Unlike the Sabha, which was exclusive to Brahmin landowners, the Ur represented the broader tax-paying population. These assemblies managed local affairs, including land disputes, community resources, and the collection of dues. This system demonstrates the existence of organized local governance and community participation in the early medieval southern peninsula.

**228.** (D) Skandagupta
Skandagupta was the last truly powerful emperor of the imperial Gupta line. His reign was defined by his heroic struggle to defend the empire against massive Huna invasions and internal rebellions by groups like the Pushyamitras. While he successfully repelled these threats and maintained imperial integrity, the constant warfare severely drained the state's economic and military resources. Following his death, the centralized power of the Guptas began to fragment and decline significantly.

**229.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Rashtrakuta dynasty produced several monarchs who made lasting contributions to Indian culture and religion. Krishna I is immortalized as the patron of the monumental rock-cut Kailasa temple at Ellora, a masterpiece of ancient engineering. Similarly, Amoghavarsha I is celebrated as a scholarly king who promoted Kannada literature and was a devout patron

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and other contemporary Buddhist kingdoms across the Indian Ocean region.

**214.** (B) Hemanta Sena
The political history of the Sena dynasty in Bengal began with Hemanta Sena, who established the family as local rulers following the decline of the Pala power. While his ancestors had southern origins, it was during his time and that of his successor, Vijaya Sena, that the dynasty truly expanded its authority. They eventually displaced the Palas to become the dominant power in Bengal, promoting Brahmanical traditions and Sanskrit culture throughout their kingdom.

**215.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Hoysala temples are renowned for their extraordinarily fine and elaborate carvings, which cover almost every available surface. This level of detail was achieved because the architects used chloritic schist, commonly known as soapstone, which is relatively soft when first quarried. This allowed sculptors to work with the precision of woodcarvers or jewelers. Over time, the stone hardens, preserving the intricate mythological scenes and architectural details that define the unique Hoysala style.

**216.** (A) Women had absolute right over certain types of property.
The concept of Stridhana in ancient Indian law signifies that women held exclusive and absolute rights over certain forms of property. This wealth typically included gifts received during marriage and other auspicious occasions. Legal texts protected this property from being seized by husbands or relatives, ensuring that women had a degree of financial security. This practice demonstrates that ancient social systems recognized specific spheres of female economic autonomy within the broader family structure.

**217.** (C) THE Rashtrakutas
The Chalukyas of Kalyani rose to power in the late tenth century by overthrowing the Rashtrakuta dynasty. Tailapa II, a feudatory who claimed descent from the earlier Chalukyas of Vatapi, took advantage of Rashtrakuta weakness to re-establish Chalukyan dominance in the Deccan. This transition marked a major political shift, as the Kalyani Chalukyas became the new imperial force in the region, continuing the long-standing traditions of Deccan administration and architectural patronage.

**218.** (A) THE Post-Gupta period of administrative decentralization.
The practice of granting land to Brahmins and religious institutions, known as Brahmadeya and Agrahara, became significantly more widespread during the post-Gupta era. This period was marked by an increasing trend toward administrative decentralization and the rise of local feudal lords. Rulers used these grants to gain religious merit, expand agriculture into frontier regions, and establish loyal centers of support across their fragmented territories, leading to significant social and economic changes.

**219.** (D) Mahendravarman I Pallava
Mahendravarman I was a multifaceted Pallava king who made enduring contributions to Sanskrit literature. He is the author of the Mattavilasa Prahasana, a satirical play or farce that provides a humorous look at various religious sects of his time. This work reflects the king's intellectual depth and the vibrant cultural environment of the seventh-century Pallava court. His literary pursuits complemented his achievements as a pioneer of rock-cut temple architecture in the Tamil region.

**220.** (B) Bihar
Vikramashila University was a premier center for Buddhist learning located in modern-day Bihar. Founded by the Pala king Dharmapala, it became famous as a major hub for the study of Vajrayana Buddhism. The university attracted students from across Asia and played a vital role in preserving and disseminating Buddhist knowledge until its destruction in the late twelfth century. Its ruins remain an important archaeological site, documenting the educational glory of the early medieval period.

**221.** (C) Rajendra I
Rajendra I completed the Chola conquest of Sri Lanka, a military project that had been initiated by his father, Rajaraja I. He launched a massive naval invasion that brought the entire island under Chola control, capturing the Sri Lankan king and his treasures. This victory established Chola supremacy in the southern seas and

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in the region, initiating a new era of imperial rule and architectural development centered at Kalyani.

**270.** (D) I, II and III
The Chola navy was one of the most remarkable military organizations of the ancient world, enabling the dynasty to project its power far across the seas. It was utilized for the complete conquest of Sri Lanka and the Maldives, as well as for launching successful naval raids into Southeast Asia. This maritime strength secured Chola dominance over vital trade routes and facilitated extensive cultural exchanges, establishing them as a paramount power in the Indian Ocean.

**271.** (A) Nandivarman II Pallavamalla
The Vaikunta Perumal temple at Kanchipuram is a significant example of structural temple architecture from the later Pallava period. It was commissioned by Nandivarman II Pallavamalla in the eighth century. The temple is unique for its multi-storied sanctum and for the detailed sculpted panels that depict the history of the Pallava dynasty. It reflects the continued evolution of the Dravidian style and the integration of dynastic history with religious devotion.

**272.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Gupta period is widely celebrated as the Classical Age of Sanskrit literature due to the unprecedented brilliance of its literary output. The era was defined by the patronage of emperors who supported legendary figures like Kalidasa, Vishakhadatta, and Shudraka. These authors produced foundational works in drama and poetry that set the aesthetic and linguistic standards for Sanskrit for over a millennium, reflecting the intellectual maturity of the entire era.

**273.** (B) Kamarupa
Prag-jyotisha-pur-adhipati is an ancient Sanskrit title that literally means the Lord of the City of Pragjyotisha. This title was traditionally held by the rulers of the Varman dynasty who governed the kingdom of Kamarupa, located in modern-day Assam. Pragjyotishpura, the modern city of Guwahati, served as their capital. The use of this prestigious title emphasizes the kingdom's ancient heritage and its role as a significant political center in northeastern India.

**274.** (A) Dance of creation, preservation, and destruction
The Chola bronze statue of Nataraja is one of the most profound and globally recognized symbols of Indian art. It depicts Lord Shiva performing the cosmic dance, known as the Tandava. This divine performance represents the continuous cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction of the universe. The fluid elegance and complex symbolism of the Nataraja icon perfectly encapsulate the philosophical depth and technical mastery achieved during the peak of Chola artistic patronage.

**275.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The powerful dynasties of Southern India and the Deccan utilized specific animal symbols as their royal emblems to represent their authority and character. The Cholas adopted the tiger, while the Pallavas utilized the bull, often associated with Shiva. The Chalukyas famously used the boar, representing Vishnu's Varaha incarnation. Meanwhile, the Pandyas identified themselves with the fish, a symbol that reflected their regional identity and maritime traditions across their southern territories.

**276.** (D) Novels
Kadambari is a landmark work in world literature, authored by the seventh-century poet Banabhatta. It is widely considered one of the earliest examples of a novel due to its complex narrative structure and focus on a sustained fictional story. The work is renowned for its elaborate Sanskrit prose and its intricate plot involving multiple births and romantic themes, showcasing the incredible literary sophistication of the court of King Harshavardhana.

**277.** (C) Krishna and Godavari
The Eastern Chalukyas established their kingdom in the coastal region of modern-day Andhra Pradesh, ruling from their capital at Vengi. Their territories were primarily situated between the Krishna and Godavari rivers, a highly fertile area that supported a prosperous agrarian economy. This strategic location allowed the dynasty to flourish for several centuries, serving as a hub for

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of Jainism. These rulers' legacies illustrate the dynasty's significant role in fostering diverse artistic and religious traditions.

**230.** (B) Shiva
The Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu is the largest and most famous architectural achievement of the Hoysala dynasty. It is a dual shrine dedicated to Shiva, commissioned during the twelfth century. The temple is world-renowned for its incredible density of stone carvings, depicting thousands of figures from Hindu mythology and daily life. It serves as a spectacular example of the intricate soapstone carving tradition that flourished under the patronage of the Hoysala monarchs.

**231.** (D) Vishaya
In the hierarchical administrative structure of the Gupta empire, each province or Bhukti was further divided into several districts. These districts were known as Vishayas and were governed by officials carrying the title of Vishayapati. This organized layering of administration allowed for more localized control over revenue collection and the maintenance of order, ensuring that the central imperial authority was effectively represented at the district level throughout the vast state.

**232.** (A) I and II only
Harshavardhana was a unique monarch who combined military leadership with a profound dedication to literature and religion. He is credited with authoring three major Sanskrit plays: Ratnavali, Priyadarsika, and Nagananda. He also organized massive religious assemblies at Kannauj and Prayag to promote dialogue and charity. While he patronized diversas faiths, he never banned Sanskrit; in fact, his own literary contributions helped maintain the language's prestige as the medium of high culture.

**233.** (C) THE northern Deccan plateau
The Vakataka kingdom was a major political force that flourished in the northern Deccan, primarily covering parts of modern-day Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. They were contemporaries of the Guptas and played a crucial role as a buffer state and a strategic ally. The Vakatakas were also significant patrons of the arts, with their influence seen in the magnificent Buddhist caves at Ajanta, reflecting their power and cultural importance during the fourth and fifth centuries.

**234.** (A) Karnata (Deccan)
The Sena dynasty, which eventually ruled over Bengal, originally migrated from the Karnata region of the Deccan. They referred to themselves as Brahma-Kshatriyas and brought with them the cultural and religious traditions of the south. This migration is an important example of the demographic and political shifts in medieval India, as the Senas eventually established a powerful state that displaced the Palas and promoted Brahmanical traditions in the eastern plains.

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**235.** (D) Irrigation tanks and agriculture
The Kakatiya dynasty achieved significant prosperity and social stability by focusing on the systematic management of water resources. They constructed thousands of massive irrigation tanks across the semi-arid Deccan plateau, which transformed the landscape into a productive agricultural region. This investment in rural infrastructure supported a growing population and provided the state with a stable revenue base, becoming one of the most enduring legacies of Kakatiya rule in modern Telangana.

**236.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Chola period represents the classical peak of Dravidian temple architecture. Powerful monarchs like Rajaraja I and Rajendra I utilized the empire's vast wealth to commission monumental structural temples, such as the Brihadeshwara at Tanjore and Gangaikondacholapuram. These temples are characterized by their massive tiered vimanas and sophisticated sculptural programs, representing a perfection of architectural proportions and masonry that defined southern Indian religious art for subsequent generations.

**237.** (C) Gupta
The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is a quintessential example of early structural temple architecture from the Gupta period. Built in the fifth century, it features an early shikhara and elaborate stone carvings of Vishnu. As one of the earliest surviving stone temples in North India, it illustrates the transition from simple cave shrines to complex structural designs, marking a critical stage in the development of what would become the Nagara style.

grand assemblies while maintaining a policy of tolerance for other faiths.

**254.** (D) Warangal
The Kakatiya dynasty established its powerful regional empire in the eastern Deccan, with its political headquarters at Warangal. This city, featuring a unique circular design and massive fortifications, became a center of Telugu culture and military power. The Kakatiyas are remembered for their resilient defense of their territories and for their massive irrigation projects, which supported the prosperity of the region until the eventual conquest by the forces of the Delhi Sultanate.

**255.** (D) I, II and III
Kumaragupta I enjoyed a long and largely peaceful reign that witnessed significant cultural and institutional growth. He is traditionally credited with founding the Nalanda Mahavihara, which became a world-renowned center of learning. His diverse coinage, including the famous peacock type, reflects the period's artistic sophistication. However, toward the end of his life, the empire faced major challenges, including a significant rebellion by the Pushyamitras that tested the dynasty's military resilience.

**256.** (B) Agrarian economy supplemented by trade
The economy of the Pallava kingdom was fundamentally rooted in agriculture, which was supported by the dynasty's extensive efforts in constructing irrigation canals and tanks. This agrarian base provided the necessary surplus to maintain the state and its magnificent architectural projects. Simultaneously, the Pallavas promoted maritime trade through their ports like Mamallapuram, engaging in commerce with Southeast Asia and China, which further enriched the kingdom and its coastal urban centers.

**257.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Chalukyas of Vatapi adopted the Varaha, or the boar incarnation of Vishnu, as their royal emblem to symbolize their role as protectors of the earth. This emblem was prominently featured on their gold coins, which were themselves referred to as Varahas. The use of this powerful mythological symbol on their coinage and official seals served to legitimize their imperial authority and reflected their religious affiliation with the Vaishnavite tradition.

**258.** (A) Southern Karnataka
The Western Ganga dynasty was a significant regional power that governed a territory known as Gangavadi for nearly eight centuries. This region corresponds primarily to Southern Karnataka, including areas around modern-day Mysore, Bangalore, and Kolar. The Gangas are remembered for their patronage of Jainism and for maintaining their distinct regional identity while interacting with larger contemporary powers like the Rashtrakutas and the Chalukyas of Vatapi.

**259.** (C) It exhausted the resources of all three kingdoms, paving the way for new powers.
The frequent and intense warfare between the Chalukyas, Pallavas, and Pandyas significantly impacted the political landscape of Southern India. These long-drawn conflicts demanded immense economic and military resources, eventually weakening the central authority of all three major dynasties. This exhaustion created a power vacuum that allowed for the rise of new forces, most notably the imperial Cholas and the Rashtrakutas, who subsequently reshaped the history of the peninsula.

**260.** (D) Solankis of Gujarat
The Dilwara Jain temples at Mount Abu are masterpieces of medieval Indian architecture, commissioned during the rule of the Solanki dynasty, also known as the Chaulukyas of Gujarat. These temples are world-renowned for their incredibly intricate marble carvings and delicate workmanship. The Solanki era was a period of great prosperity and religious tolerance, allowing for the creation of such magnificent monuments that reflect the peak of the Maru-Gurjara artistic tradition.

**261.** (C) Commander-in-chief of the army
In the highly organized military hierarchy of the Gupta empire, the title Mahabaladhikrita designated the supreme commander of the imperial forces. This official held an essential role in planning military campaigns, maintaining the army's discipline, and advising the emperor on strategic defense matters. The presence of such

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**246.** (B) THE Pandava brothers and Draupadi
The five monolithic shrines at Mahabalipuram, popularly known as the Five Rathas, are traditionally named after the heroes of the Mahabharata. Although they were never consecrated as temples, they are associated with the five Pandava brothers and their wife, Draupadi. Each structure displays a distinct architectural style, serving as a permanent stone record of the diverse temple forms that were being experimented with during the peak of Pallava artistic creativity.

**247.** (D) THE Guptas and Harshavardhana
The Varman dynasty established the first historical kingdom of Kamarupa in modern-day Assam. They flourished during the fourth to seventh centuries, making them contemporary with both the Gupta empire and the later reign of Harshavardhana. Their most famous king, Bhaskaravarman, maintained close diplomatic ties with Harsha, participating in major regional events. This dynasty played a crucial role in integrating the northeastern region into the broader political life of India.

**248.** (A) THE victorious campaign up to the river Ganga
Rajendra Chola I founded the city of Gangaikondacholapuram as a permanent monument to his successful military expedition to the northern plains. The city's name literally means the city of the Chola who took the Ganges. By establishing this new capital and its grand temple, the king sought to immortalize his achievement of reaching the sacred river, demonstrating the unprecedented geographic reach and military capability of the imperial Chola state.

**249.** (C) Chola
Among the major Indian dynasties, the Cholas were uniquely distinguished by their development of a powerful and sophisticated naval force. This maritime strength allowed them to transcend the continental boundaries of India, enabling the conquest of Sri Lanka and the execution of successful naval raids as far as Southeast Asia. Their navy secured control over vital sea lanes, facilitating a period of intense maritime trade and cultural exchange across the Indian Ocean.

**250.** (A) Ramachandra
Ramachandra was the last major independent monarch of the Yadava dynasty, ruling from the formidable capital of Devagiri in the western Deccan. His reign occurred during a critical period when the Delhi Sultanate began its expansion into Southern India. Following the invasions led by Alauddin Khalji, Ramachandra was eventually forced to become a tributary vassal, marking the end of the Yadavas' status as a sovereign regional power in medieval India.

**251.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
The Chola empire utilized a highly structured and hierarchical administrative system to manage its extensive territories. The largest unit was the Mandalam or province. These were further divided into Valanadus or divisions. Below these were the Nadus, representing districts or sub-divisions. The most basic unit for group governance was the Kurram, which consisted of a cluster of villages. This meticulous organization ensured efficient revenue collection and administration.

**252.** (B) A decentralized, feudal structure with significant local autonomy
Unlike the highly centralized Mauryan state, the Gupta administration functioned through a more decentralized and tiered hierarchy. While the emperor held supreme authority, significant power was delegated to provincial governors and various local officials. Many regional rulers were maintained as tributaries, and local village and city councils exercised considerable autonomy in managing their internal affairs. This decentralized approach became a defining characteristic of governance during the Indian classical and early medieval periods.

**253.** (C) Devotion to Shiva initially, followed by a strong inclination towards Mahayana Buddhism
Harshavardhana's religious life underwent a significant evolution over the course of his reign. He was initially a devout follower of Shiva, reflecting the traditional family deity of the Pushyabhutis. Later, under the influence of the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang and his own sister, he became deeply attracted to Mahayana Buddhism. He subsequently dedicated massive resources to Buddhist institutions and organized

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**238.** (D) Pulakeshin I
Pulakeshin I was the ambitious chieftain who founded the Chalukya dynasty of Vatapi in the mid-sixth century. He fortified the hill of Vatapi, making it his secure capital, and performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice to assert his sovereign status. His leadership laid the foundation for a dynasty that would dominate the Deccan for two centuries, eventually becoming a major imperial force that challenged the powers of both Northern and Southern India.

**239.** (A) China and Southeast Asia
During the Gupta period, the decline of the direct maritime trade route to the Roman Empire led to a significant shift in India's commercial focus. To compensate, Indian merchants increasingly explored lucrative opportunities in China and Southeast Asia. This period saw a surge in the export of spices, textiles, and precious stones to the east, facilitating extensive cultural exchange and the spread of Indian religious and artistic influences across the entire regional maritime network.

**240.** (B) THE Chaulukyas of Gujarat
The Solanki dynasty is frequently referred to in historical texts as the Chaulukyas of Gujarat to distinguish them from the Chalukya branches of the Deccan. They established a powerful and prosperous kingdom centered at Anhilwara during the medieval period. Known for their support of Jainism and their magnificent architectural contributions, the Solankis played a dominant role in the political and cultural life of Western India for several centuries.

**241.** (B) A village or land granted to Brahmins
In ancient and early medieval India, the term Agrahara designated a specific type of land grant. These were usually entire villages or large tracts of land bestowed upon learned Brahmins or religious communities by kings and wealthy patrons. The grants were typically tax-free, allowing the recipients to devote themselves to religious duties, teaching, and scholarship. This system fostered the development of numerous centers of learning and cultural activity across the subcontinent.

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**242.** (A) Krishna and Tungabhadra
The persistent conflict between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas was primarily centered on the possession of the fertile Raichur Doab. This strategic territory is located between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers and was highly valued for its agricultural productivity. The desire to control this wealthy region fueled generations of warfare, leading to repeated invasions and significant military mobilization by both dynasties as they struggled for supremacy in the southern peninsula.

**243.** (C) Rajaraja I
Rajaraja I was a visionary Chola monarch who initiated one of the most comprehensive and precise land surveys in ancient India. This massive administrative undertaking was aimed at ensuring an accurate assessment of land revenue and the fair distribution of resources. The detailed records generated by this survey provided a stable economic foundation for the Chola empire, enabling the king to finance his extensive military campaigns and grand architectural projects.

**244.** (D) A rigid four-fold caste system with untouchability.
The social conditions during the reign of Harshavardhana, as documented by foreign travelers like Hiuen Tsang, were characterized by a clearly defined social hierarchy. The four-fold varna system remained the foundational structure of society, with increasing rigidity in its rules and practices. Furthermore, the practice of untouchability was a visible social reality, with marginalized groups forced to live in separate areas, reflecting the deep-seated social inequalities of the early medieval period.

**245.** (C) They were overthrown by the Pallavas.
The Rashtrakuta dynasty was a dominant imperial force in the Deccan for over two centuries, with its capital at Manyakheta. They were known for their broad religious patronage and their active participation in the tripartite struggle for Kannauj. However, they were not overthrown by the Pallavas; rather, their power came to an end in the late tenth century when they were defeated by the Later Chalukyas of Kalyani.

specialized high-ranking officials reflects the state's sophisticated administrative framework and its ability to mobilize and lead a powerful military to maintain imperial order.

**262.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Narasimhavarman I was one of the greatest Pallava monarchs, also known by the title Mamalla, meaning the great wrestler. He founded the coastal port city of Mamallapuram, which was named in his honor and is known today as Mahabalipuram. During his reign, he commissioned several iconic rock-cut monuments and monolithic rathas, transforming the city into a major artistic and commercial center that showcased the dynasty's immense power and cultural sophistication.

**263.** (D) Nalanda
Dharmapala was a great patron of Buddhist learning who established the Vikramashila University and provided extensive support for the continued functioning of Nalanda. Under the Pala dynasty's protection and endowments, Nalanda experienced a major revival, continuing to attract scholars from across the Buddhist world. This royal support ensured that Northern and Eastern India remained the intellectual heartland of Buddhism during the early medieval period, fostering significant philosophical and literary developments.

**264.** (A) Vesara
The Hoysala architectural style is fundamentally a later and highly refined evolution of the Vesara tradition. This hybrid style originated in the Deccan by blending Nagara and Dravida elements. The Hoysalas further developed this by introducing their unique star-shaped ground plans and an unprecedented density of surface ornamentation. Their temples at Belur and Halebidu represent the most sophisticated and visually complex manifestation of the Vesara architectural lineage in medieval India.

**265.** (C) Rajaraja I (Chola)
The Tripartite Struggle was a century-long conflict for dominance in Northern India, primarily involving the Palas of Bengal, the Gurjara-Pratiharas of Malwa, and the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan. These three powers repeatedly fought for the control of the prestigious city of Kannauj. While the imperial Cholas were a dominant force in the south, they did not participate in this specific northern competition, focusing instead on peninsular and maritime expansion.

**266.** (A) Wang Hiuen-tse
The diplomatic and cultural relations between the Gupta empire and Sri Lanka are attested by foreign historical records. The account of a Sri Lankan mission to the court of Samudragupta for permission to build a monastery at Bodh Gaya is mentioned by the Chinese writer Wang Hiuen-tse. This reference provides essential evidence of the international prestige of the Gupta emperors and the continued religious interactions between India and its southern island neighbor.

**267.** (D) Lalitaditya Muktapida
Lalitaditya Muktapida was the most powerful and celebrated monarch of the Karkota dynasty, under whose leadership Kashmir reached the peak of its imperial glory. His military campaigns extended far into Central Asia and across the northern plains of India. He was also a prolific builder, commissioning the monumental Martand Sun Temple. His reign transformed Kashmir into a formidable regional power and left a lasting impact on the valley's history and architecture.

**268.** (B) Lives and Jataka tales of the Buddha
The magnificent murals of the Ajanta caves, created primarily during the Gupta and Vakataka periods, are centered on Buddhist themes. The paintings depict various scenes from the life of Gautama Buddha and the Jataka tales, which narrate his previous incarnations. These artworks are celebrated for their sophisticated use of color, fluid composition, and emotional depth, representing the pinnacle of ancient Indian painting and a profound expression of Buddhist devotional art.

**269.** (C) Tailapa II
The Rashtrakuta empire, which had dominated the Deccan for over two centuries, was eventually overthrown in the late tenth century. This political shift was led by Tailapa II, a descendant of the earlier Chalukya line who established the Western Chalukya dynasty of Kalyani. By defeating the last Rashtrakuta king, Karka II, Tailapa II re-established Chalukyan supremacy

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century, effectively avenging earlier imperial defeats.

**206.** (D) Shaivism
The Chola rulers were among the most dedicated patrons of Shaivism in Indian history. They identified Shiva as their primary deity and commissioned magnificent temples like the Brihadeshwara to honor him. Their court fostered the work of Shaivite saints and the compilation of sacred hymns. While they were generally tolerant of other traditions, the dynasty's identity and grandest architectural achievements were fundamentally rooted in the promotion and celebration of Shaivite faith.

**207.** (A) Alauddin Khalji
The Yadava king Ramachandra governed the Deccan during the period when the Delhi Sultanate began its southward expansion. He was a contemporary of Alauddin Khalji, who launched the first significant Muslim invasion of the Deccan. Following the siege of Devagiri, Ramachandra was forced to pay a massive tribute and acknowledge the Sultan's suzerainty. This encounter marked the beginning of the end for the independent regional kingdoms of the southern plateau.

**208.** (B) A provincial governor
In the Gupta administration, the empire was organized into provinces known as Bhuktis. The high official responsible for governing these large territories was usually designated as the Uparika. Often chosen from the royal family or the high nobility, the Uparika held significant power, overseeing local administration, judicial matters, and the collection of taxes. This provincial layer of governance was essential for maintaining imperial authority across the diverse regions of the Gupta state.

**209.** (B) THE Utpalas
After the decline of the Karkota dynasty, the Utpala dynasty emerged as the next major ruling house of Kashmir. Founded by Avantivarman in the ninth century, the dynasty brought a period of peace and focused on economic stability. They are particularly remembered for their massive irrigation projects and the construction of several magnificent temples. Their rule represented a significant phase of regional consolidation before the later rise of the Lohara dynasty.

**210.** (A) I and II only
The Chola empire was organized into provinces called Mandalams to ensure efficient governance over its vast territories. A defining feature of their administration was the high degree of autonomy granted to village assemblies like the Sabha and Ur, which managed local affairs independently. While the state collected taxes and surveyed land, private ownership of land was common, and communities held collective rights, contradicting the idea of complete central government ownership.

**211.** (C) THE Kailasa Temple, Ellora
The rock-cut Kailasa Temple at Ellora stands as the supreme example of Rashtrakuta artistic and engineering genius. Commissioned by Krishna I, this monolithic structure was excavated from a single massive rock from the top down. It features incredibly complex carvings and a grand architectural plan that rivals the finest structural temples. This monument remains one of the most significant and awe-inspiring examples of early medieval Indian art and religious devotion.

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**212.** (D) To demonstrate his military power and fetch holy Ganga water.
Rajendra Chola I launched a celebrated military expedition to the Ganga valley primarily as a symbolic assertion of his imperial status. Rather than attempting a permanent northern annexation, the campaign aimed to demonstrate the reach of Chola power and to bring the sacred water of the Ganges to his southern capital. To commemorate this event, he built a massive irrigation tank and assumed the prestigious title of Gangaikondachola.

**213.** (C) Bodh Gaya
During the reign of Samudragupta, the Sri Lankan king Meghavarna sought permission to build a monastery for Sri Lankan pilgrims at Bodh Gaya. Samudragupta granted this request, demonstrating his role as a tolerant and powerful sovereign. This event, mentioned in later historical accounts, highlights the religious prestige of Bodh Gaya and the diplomatic relations maintained between the Gupta empire

regional trade and facilitating the development of a unique Telugu-Chalukyan cultural tradition.

**278.** (B) Danasagara and Adbhutasagara
Ballala Sena was a scholarly and powerful monarch of the Sena dynasty in Bengal. He is credited with authoring and completing significant literary works, most notably the Danasagara and the Adbhutasagara, the latter of which was left unfinished by his father. These texts deal with social and religious rituals, reflecting the king's deep interest in Brahmanical traditions and his role as a patron of learning during a major cultural shift in medieval Bengal.

**279.** (D) THE Bhakti movement of Alvars and Nayanars
Social life during the Pallava period was profoundly transformed by the rise of the Bhakti movement. Led by the Alvar and Nayanar saints, this religious revolution promoted personal and emotional devotion to Vishnu and Shiva. By composing hymns in Tamil and traveling across the land, these saints made religious participation more accessible to all sections of society, regardless of caste, which significantly influenced the social and cultural identity of Southern India.

**280.** (A) Vishnugupta
Historical records and numismatic evidence identify Vishnugupta as the last known ruler of the imperial Gupta line. By his reign in the mid-sixth century, the empire had already suffered significant territorial losses and a major decline in central authority due to repeated Huna invasions and the rise of local powers. His rule represents the final, fragmented stage of the once-great dynasty before the northern heartland was divided among various regional kingdoms.

**281.** (C) Amoghavarsha I
The Pallava dynasty produced several illustrious monarchs like Mahendravarman I and the two rulers named Narasimhavarman, who were responsible for significant military successes and monumental architectural projects. In contrast, Amoghavarsha I was a legendary emperor of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. While he was a dominant force in his own right and a great patron of culture, he belonged to the Deccan-based dynasty that eventually supplanted the earlier southern powers.

**282.** (A) Shaivism and Vaishnavism flourished, though Shaivism received more royal patronage.
During the Chola era, both Shaivism and Vaishnavism experienced a period of significant growth and popularity, largely driven by the legacies of the Bhakti movement. While the Chola kings were famously dedicated to Shiva and built their grandest temples in his honor, they generally maintained a policy of religious tolerance. Vaishnavism continued to flourish alongside Shaivism, with many rulers offering support to both traditions, ensuring a vibrant and pluralistic religious environment.

**283.** (D) Karnataka region
The Kadamba dynasty was the first major indigenous ruling house of the Karnataka region, founded by Mayurasharman in the mid-fourth century. Originally a Brahmin family from the west, they established their independence and governed from their capital at Banavasi. Their rule is historically significant for the emergence of a distinct regional identity and for the early administrative use of the local language, paving the way for the later powerful southern empires.

**284.** (B) THE Punjab, Kannauj, Bengal, and Orissa
At its maximum extent, Harshavardhana's empire covered a vast portion of Northern and Eastern India. His authority was recognized across the Punjab, the central Gangetic heartland around Kannauj, and extended into parts of Bengal and Orissa. While his influence was extensive in the north, he never successfully conquered the southern peninsula, as his expansion was permanently checked at the Narmada river, leaving the south under the control of independent regional powers.

**285.** (C) A curvilinear spire called Shikhara
The Dravida style of temple architecture, which flourished in Southern India, is distinguished by several characteristic features. These include monumental gateways called gopurams and tiered, pyramidal towers known as vimanas over the sanctum. Most Dravida temple complexes also feature a large water tank for ritual purposes. However, the curvilinear spire known as a shikhara is the defining element of the northern

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**36.** Ahmad Shah Abdali's invasions of India culminated in the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761. Who was his main opponent in this battle?
(A) The Mughal Emperor
(B) The Sikhs
(C) The Jats
(D) The Marathas

**37.** What was the primary cause of the Battle of Khanwa (1527)?
(A) Relatives of Ibrahim Lodi seeking revenge for his defeat.
(B) Babur's primary desire to conquer the wealthy Gujarat coast.
(C) The threat from the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga.
(D) Control over Bengal and its lucrative eastern trade routes.

**38.** The Siege of Chittorgarh by Akbar in 1567-68 is a famous event in Mughal-Rajput history. Who was the Rana of Mewar at that time?
(A) Rana Pratap
(B) Rana Udai Singh
(C) Rana Sanga
(D) Rana Kumbha

**39.** Consider the following statements regarding the Gond kingdom:
Statement I: The Gond queen Rani Durgavati offered fierce resistance to the Mughal army led by Asaf Khan.
Statement II: The Gonds were a tribal community that had established a powerful kingdom in the region of Garha-Katanga.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I is correct.
(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II is correct.

**40.** Which of the following groups did NOT lead a significant resistance movement against Aurangzeb's policies?
(A) The Bahmanis
(B) The Jats
(C) The Sikhs
(D) The Satnamis

**41.** Arrange the following Mughal emperors in the correct chronological order of their reign:
1. Shah Jahan
2. Jahangir
3. Aurangzeb
4. Akbar

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 4, 3, 2, 1
(B) 4, 2, 1, 3
(C) 2, 4, 1, 3
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

**42.** The Sikh resistance against the Mughals intensified significantly after the execution of which Sikh Guru by Aurangzeb?
(A) Guru Tegh Bahadur
(B) Guru Arjan Dev
(C) Guru Hargobind
(D) Guru Gobind Singh

**43.** The Vijayanagara Empire was founded in the 14th century on the banks of which river?
(A) Krishna
(B) Godavari
(C) Kaveri
(D) Tungabhadra

**44.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms were in a state of perpetual conflict.
Reason (R): The primary cause of their conflict was the control over the fertile Raichur doab, located between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**45.** The Bahmani Kingdom was founded by:
(A) Muhammad Shah I
(B) Firoz Shah Bahmani
(C) Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah
(D) Mahmud Gawan

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intense cultural and economic exchange across the eastern regions.

**294.** (B) Kashmir
The Lohara dynasty was the final major Hindu ruling house of the Kashmir valley, succeeding the Karkota and Utpala dynasties. Their history is meticulously documented in Kalhana's Rajatarangini. The Loharas governed during a turbulent period but managed to maintain the political independence and cultural traditions of the valley for nearly two centuries. Their rule represents the final phase of ancient regional governance in Kashmir before the transition to medieval sultanates.

**295.** (D) Sena dynasty of Bengal
Dakshinapatha historically refers to the vast region of India located south of the Vindhya mountains. While the Yadavas, Hoysalas, and Kakatiyas all established their centers of power in this southern geographic zone, the Sena dynasty was based in Bengal and Bihar in the east. Therefore, the Senas fall outside the traditional boundaries of the Dakshinapatha, belonging instead to the political and cultural sphere of the northern and eastern plains.

**296.** (A) Ujjain
Chandragupta II shifted his second capital to Ujjain to more effectively manage the newly conquered territories in Western India. This move was strategic, as Ujjain was a major commercial hub and provided closer access to the regions seized from the Shaka Kshatrapas. As a result, the city became a vibrant center for art, literature, and trade, and is traditionally associated with the legendary court of Vikramaditya and his Nine Gems.

**297.** (C) Karnataka
The major medieval dynasties of the Deccan, including the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and Hoysalas, all had their primary heartlands within the borders of modern-day Karnataka. These powers built their magnificent capitals, such as Badami, Manyakheta, and Halebidu, in this region. The heritage of these dynasties is preserved in the extraordinary architecture and inscriptions found across the state, which served as the cradle for several influential South Indian cultural and political traditions.

**298.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Southern Indian architectural history is defined by a clear evolutionary path involving two major dynasties. The Pallavas were the true pioneers of rock-cut architecture, carving caves and monolithic rathas during the seventh century. Subsequently, the imperial Cholas built upon these foundations to perfect the structural Dravidian style. Their massive temples, characterized by towering vimanas and intricate sculpture, represent the technical and aesthetic culmination of this long regional tradition of religious building.

**299.** (D) Assam
Prag-jyotishpura was the ancient name for the capital of the kingdom of Kamarupa, which corresponds to modern-day Assam. The city is traditionally identified with the modern urban area of Guwahati. The Varman dynasty ruled this eastern region, claiming a long and mythical lineage. Their presence in historical records highlights the importance of the northeastern frontier in the broader political and cultural landscape of ancient and early medieval India.

**300.** (B) Mahmud of Ghazni
During the eleventh century, the Solanki ruler Bhima I faced a significant external threat from the Central Asian conqueror Mahmud of Ghazni. This period was marked by devastating raids, most notably the attack on the Somnath temple. Despite these challenges, Bhima I worked toward rebuilding the kingdom's religious sites and restoring the political stability of the Gujarat region thereafter, demonstrating the resilience of the medieval Solanki state.

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(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II is correct.

**56.** The 'Diwan-i-Arz' in the administration of the Delhi Sultanate was the department of:
(A) Military affairs
(B) Foreign affairs
(C) Finance
(D) Royal correspondence

**57.** The administrative system of the Mughals was a complex structure. Who was the head of the revenue department under the Mughals?
(A) Mir Bakshi
(B) Sadr-us-Sudur
(C) Diwan-i-Ala or Wazir
(D) Khan-i-Saman

**58.** Identify the incorrect pair regarding Shivaji's administration.
(A) Sachiv - Commander-in-Chief
(B) Peshwa - Prime Minister
(C) Amatya - Finance Minister
(D) Sumant - Foreign Minister

**59.** In the context of medieval administration, what was the primary function of a 'Wazir' under both the Sultanate and the Mughals?
(A) To lead the army in major campaigns.
(B) To act as the chief religious advisor to the ruler.
(C) To manage the royal household and karkhanas.
(D) To head the revenue and finance department.

**60.** Arrange the following events in the life of Shivaji in chronological order:
1. Sacking of Surat
2. Coronation at Raigad
3. Treaty of Purandar with Jai Singh
4. Afzal Khan episode

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 4, 1, 3, 2
(B) 1, 4, 3, 2
(C) 4, 3, 1, 2
(D) 1, 3, 4, 2

**61.** Consider the following statements about medieval administrative systems:
1. The Turks introduced the 'Ikta' system in India.
2. Shershah Suri's land revenue reforms were later adopted and refined by Akbar.
3. Shivaji's revenue system was largely based on measuring the land and fixing the state's share.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**62.** The sacrifice of King Dahir is associated with the resistance against which invasion?
(A) The invasion of Mahmud of Ghazni
(B) The invasion of Muhammad Ghori
(C) The invasion of Timur
(D) The invasion of Muhammad bin Qasim

**63.** Which ruler of Kashmir is credited with defeating the Arabs and halting their northward expansion?
(A) Lalitaditya Muktapida
(B) Didda
(C) Zain-ul-Abidin
(D) Harsha

**64.** What was the 'Chauth' system primarily used for by the Marathas?
(A) Revenue meant for funding temple construction.
(B) Claim of sovereignty and protection from raids.
(C) A specific trade tax within Maratha territory.
(D) Funds to pay salaries of civil administrators.

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**65.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The 'Sulah-i-kul' policy of Akbar helped in consolidating the Mughal Empire.
Reason (R): It promoted a harmonious environment and secured the cooperation of non-Muslim, particularly Rajput, chiefs.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**9.** What was a 'Polygar' in the context of South India, particularly during the Vijayanagara period?
(A) A foreign merchant specializing in spice trade.
(B) A temple priest managing local administration.
(C) A subordinate feudal lord holding a territory.
(D) A court poet tasked with writing official chronicles.

**10.** The term 'Nadu' in the administrative structure of medieval South India primarily signified:
(A) A group of villages forming an administrative unit.
(B) The royal capital city.
(C) A large provincial division governed by a prince.
(D) A temple-centered settlement.

**11.** Consider the following statements regarding medieval administrative systems:
1. The 'Jagir' system involved granting land revenue rights to officials in lieu of a cash salary.
2. The 'Ikta' system under the Delhi Sultanate was essentially a precursor to the Jagir system.
3. Both Jagirdars and Iqtadars had absolute ownership of the land assigned to them.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**12.** Who was the ruler of Sindh when Muhammad bin Qasim invaded in 712 AD?
(A) Bappa Rawal
(B) King Dahir
(C) Lalitaditya
(D) Raja Suheldeva

**13.** The practice of 'Saka' among Rajputs is best understood as:
(A) The formal coronation ceremony for a new king.
(B) A strategic peace treaty signed with invaders.
(C) Final charge of warriors when defeat was certain.
(D) A period of fasting observed before a major battle.

**14.** Match the items in List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Chauth
Q. Deshmukh
R. Hundi
S. Amaram
List II: (Description)
1. Bill of Exchange
2. Land grant under Vijayanagara
3. Hereditary district officer
4. A Maratha tax
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

**15.** Following the invasion of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim, the Arab expansion into mainland India was effectively halted by a coalition of Indian rulers. Which of the following was NOT one of the powers that resisted the Arabs?
(A) The Pallavas of Kanchi
(B) Lalitaditya of Kashmir
(C) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
(D) The Chalukyas of Badami

**16.** What was the primary motivation for the seventeen invasions of India by Mahmud of Ghazni?
(A) To establish a permanent Ghaznavid empire in India.
(B) To plunder the wealth of Indian temples and cities.
(C) To spread Islamic culture and learning in India.
(D) To seek refuge from the advancing Seljuk Turks.

**17.** Consider the following statements regarding the Vijayanagara empire:
Statement I: The 'Amaram' tenure in the Vijayanagara empire was a land grant given to military commanders.
Statement II: The holders of Amaram grants, known as Amaranayakas, were required to pay a fixed annual tribute to the king.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I is correct.

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# CHAPTER 05
# Medieval Indian History

**1.** What does the term 'Jaziya' refer to in the context of Medieval Indian History?
(A) A trade tariff imposed on imported goods.
(B) A tax levied on non-Muslims for protection.
(C) A military cess collected from conquered territories.
(D) A mandatory donation for the construction of religious places.

**2.** Consider the following statements regarding 'Mansab':
Statement I: It was a military rank and remuneration system introduced by the Mughals.
Statement II: The rank determined the holder's salary and the number of armed retainers they were required to maintain.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I
(B) Only Statement II
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II
(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II

**3.** Identify the incorrect statement about 'Ikta' during the Sultanate period.
(A) It was a system of land grant in lieu of salary.
(B) The holder of an Ikta was called an Iqtadar or Muqti.
(C) The Ikta was a hereditary right from its inception.
(D) The Iqtadar was responsible for maintaining law and order in his territory.

**4.** Which of the following best describes the concept of 'Sulah-i-kul' as propagated by Akbar?
(A) A policy of religious intolerance towards non-Muslims.
(B) A new syncretic religion combining elements of Islam and Hinduism.
(C) A military strategy for conquering southern kingdoms.
(D) A principle of universal peace and tolerance among all religions.

**5.** The term 'Hundi' in medieval India referred to:
(A) A royal decree issued regarding legal and civil matters.
(B) A specific unit for measuring cultivated land areas.
(C) A financial instrument used as a bill of exchange.
(D) A type of tax collected from urban community artisans.

**6.** Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Chauth - A tax levied by the Marathas
(B) Amaram - A tax on agricultural produce in the Sultanate
(C) Jagir - A land grant for military service
(D) Deshmukh - A hereditary village officer

**7.** The practice of 'Jouhar' in medieval Rajput society was:
(A) A celebratory festival held after military victory.
(B) A religious ritual marking royal succession.
(C) A traditional trial by ordeal for innocence.
(D) Mass self-immolation to avoid capture.

**8.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Arab invasion of Sindh under Muhammad bin Qasim was ultimately successful in establishing a permanent Arab rule over the entire Indian subcontinent.
Reason (R): The resistance from powerful Indian rulers like Lalitaditya of Kashmir and the Gurjara-Pratiharas checked the eastward expansion of the Arabs from Sindh.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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(D) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

**27.** Identify the correct pair of a Sultanate dynasty and its founder.
(A) Tughlaq Dynasty - Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(B) Saiyad Dynasty - Bahlul Lodi
(C) Lodi Dynasty - Khizr Khan
(D) Khalji Dynasty - Jalal-ud-din Khalji

**28.** The resistance offered by various Rajput rulers was a constant challenge to the Delhi Sultanate. This resistance was primarily motivated by:
(A) The ambition to establish a pan-Indian empire.
(B) To protect political independence and culture.
(C) To gain control of central Asian trade routes.
(D) To convert the ruling Sultans to the Hindu faith.

**29.** The Lodi dynasty was of which origin?
(A) Turkic
(B) Mongol
(C) Afghan
(D) Persian

**30.** Match the items in List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Slave
Q. Khalji
R. Tughlaq
S. Lodi
List II: (Prominent Ruler)
1. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq
2. Sikandar Lodi
3. Iltutmish
4. Alauddin Khalji
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

**31.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Muhammad bin Tughlaq's decision to shift the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad was a strategic failure.
Reason (R): The transfer was ill-planned and executed forcefully, causing immense hardship to the populace and weakening the Sultan's control over the north.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**32.** The First Battle of Panipat (1526) was fought between:
(A) Babur and Rana Sanga
(B) Babur and Ibrahim Lodi
(C) Humayun and Sher Shah Suri
(D) Akbar and Hemu

**33.** Which of the following statements about Babur's wars in India is correct?
(A) The Battle of Khanwa was fought against the Afghan chiefs.
(B) The Battle of Chanderi consolidated power against Medini Rai.
(C) The Battle of Ghaghara was fought against the Rajputs led by Rana Sanga.
(D) The First Battle of Panipat established undisputed Mughal control over all of India.

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**34.** The invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739 had a devastating impact on the Mughal Empire. Which Mughal emperor was on the throne during this invasion?
(A) Muhammad Shah 'Rangila'
(B) Aurangzeb
(C) Bahadur Shah I
(D) Shah Alam II

**35.** Consider the following statements about Sher Shah Suri:
1. He defeated the Mughal emperor Humayun and established the Sur Empire.
2. He introduced significant administrative reforms, including a new land revenue system.
3. He was originally an Afghan noble in the service of the Lodi dynasty.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II is correct.

**18.** Arrange the following invasions of India in chronological order:
1. Invasion of Muhammad bin Qasim
2. First invasion of Mahmud of Ghazni
3. Invasion of Timur
4. First Battle of Tarain (Muhammad Ghori)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 1, 2, 4, 3
(B) 2, 1, 4, 3
(C) 1, 4, 2, 3
(D) 2, 4, 1, 3

**19.** Who is credited with defeating the Arabs in a major battle, contributing to the check of their advance?
(A) Raja Suheldeva
(B) Prithviraj Chauhan
(C) Bappa Rawal
(D) King Dahir

**20.** The concept of 'Deshmukh' in medieval Deccan and Maharashtra is associated with:
(A) The head of a mercantile guild.
(B) A commander of the royal cavalry.
(C) A judge in the provincial court.
(D) A hereditary official in charge of a district (pargana).

**21.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The numerous invasions by Mahmud of Ghazni weakened the political fabric of Northern India.
Reason (R): Mahmud of Ghazni's campaigns were focused on plunder and destruction, not on establishing a consolidated empire, which created a power vacuum and disunity among Indian rulers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**22.** The resistance against Mahmud of Ghazni's forces was notably led by:
(A) Bappa Rawal
(B) Raja Suheldeva
(C) Lalitaditya
(D) King Dahir

**23.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the Mongol invasions of India during the Sultanate period?
(A) The Mongols posed a serious threat to the Delhi Sultanate for several decades.
(B) Rulers like Iltutmish and Balban adopted strong defensive policies against the Mongols.
(C) Alauddin Khalji's forces successfully repelled multiple large-scale Mongol invasions.
(D) The Mongols succeeded in permanently capturing and holding Delhi.

**24.** Consider the following statements about the Slave Dynasty:
1. Qutb-ud-din Aibak was the founder of the Slave Dynasty.
2. Iltutmish consolidated the Sultanate and made Delhi his capital.
3. The dynasty is called the 'Slave Dynasty' because every ruler was a slave before becoming a king.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**25.** Timur's invasion of Delhi took place in 1398 AD during the reign of which dynasty?
(A) The Khaljis
(B) The Saiyads
(C) The Tughlaqs
(D) The Lodis

**26.** The market control policies and price regulations were a significant feature of the reign of which Delhi Sultan?
(A) Alauddin Khalji
(B) Iltutmish
(C) Balban

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**46.** What was the primary cause for the disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom?
(A) Invasion by the Vijayanagara Empire.
(B) A series of devastating famines.
(C) A successful peasant rebellion across the kingdom.
(D) Rivalry between Deccani and Afaqi (foreign) nobles.

**47.** The Battle of Talikota (1565) is a landmark event that led to the decline of:
(A) The Vijayanagara Empire
(B) The Bahmani Kingdom
(C) The Maratha Empire
(D) The Gajapati Kingdom of Orissa

**48.** Consider the following statements about the causes of the rise of Marathas:
1. The mountainous terrain of Maharashtra provided a natural defense.
2. The Bhakti movement instilled a sense of unity and social equality.
3. The experience gained by Marathas in the administrative and military systems of the Deccan Sultanates.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**49.** Shivaji's coronation, which marked the formal establishment of 'Hindvi Swaraj', took place at which fort?
(A) Panhala
(B) Raigad
(C) Sinhagad
(D) Pratapgad

**50.** Match the items in List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Battle)
P. Battle of Khanwa
Q. Battle of Ghaghara
R. Battle of Chanderi
S. First Battle of Panipat
List II: (Opponent of Babur)
1. Medini Rai
2. Ibrahim Lodi
3. Mahmud Lodi (Afghan forces)
4. Rana Sanga

(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

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**51.** The expansion of the Maratha Empire reached its zenith under the Peshwas. Who was the first Peshwa to hold a significant, hereditary position?
(A) Baji Rao I
(B) Balaji Baji Rao
(C) Balaji Vishwanath
(D) Madhavrao I

**52.** The administrative system of Shivaji was known as the 'Ashtapradhan'. This was a council of:
(A) Four ministers
(B) Ten ministers
(C) Sixteen ministers
(D) Eight ministers

**53.** Which of the following was NOT one of the five successor states of the disintegrated Bahmani kingdom?
(A) Bijapur
(B) Golconda
(C) Warangal
(D) Bidar

**54.** The administrative system under Sher Shah Suri was highly centralized. The 'pargana' was an administrative unit under the charge of a:
(A) Diwan
(B) Shiqdar
(C) Subedar
(D) Muqaddam

**55.** Consider the following statements regarding the Vijayanagara Empire:
Statement I: The administration of the Vijayanagara Empire was characterized by the Nayankara system.
Statement II: The Nayankara system involved granting land to military chiefs in return for their services, which was similar to the 'Ikta' system.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I is correct.
(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

Nagara style, rather than the southern Dravidian tradition.

**286.** (A) I and II only
Samudragupta was a formidable military leader and a sophisticated patron of the arts, often compared to Napoleon for his extensive conquests. He was also a talented musician, as depicted on his coins showing him playing the veena. While he defeated numerous southern kings, he did not annex their territories permanently. Instead, he followed a policy of reinstating them as tributaries, allowing them to rule as vassals of the Gupta empire.

**287.** (A) Dharmapala and Vatsaraja
Dhruva Dharavarsha was a powerful Rashtrakuta emperor who famously projected southern power into Northern India. He participated in the tripartite struggle for the control of Kannauj and achieved significant victories over his contemporaries. He defeated the Pala king Dharmapala of Bengal and the Gurjara-Pratihara ruler Vatsaraja in separate encounters. His successful northern campaigns demonstrated the military superiority of the Rashtrakutas and established them as a paramount power in the subcontinent.

**288.** (B) Hoysala
The Chennakeshava temple at Belur is a masterpiece of the Hoysala architectural tradition, commissioned by King Vishnuvardhana in the twelfth century. The temple is celebrated for its intricate soapstone carvings and its star-shaped ground plan, which are hallmark features of the Hoysala style. These structures represent a highly refined and ornate stage of medieval Deccan architecture, showcasing the extraordinary skill of the sculptors and the sophisticated artistic vision of the dynasty.

**289.** (B) Chandragupta II Vikramaditya
The Chinese monk Fa-Hien traveled across India during the early fifth century, which corresponds to the reign of Chandragupta II. His goal was to acquire authentic copies of the Buddhist Vinaya texts. Fa-Hien's detailed travelogues provide a valuable contemporary account of the social and economic prosperity of the Gupta empire. He described a peaceful and well-governed land, offering insights into the daily life and religious practices of the classical period.

**290.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Chola local administration reached a high degree of maturity, particularly in the Brahmadeya villages where the Sabha functioned as an autonomous assembly. The Uttaramerur inscription provides a detailed record of this system, specifying the qualifications for candidates, the method of election by lot, and the responsibilities of various committees. This structured approach to local governance ensured efficient management and allowed for a significant degree of self-rule within the broader imperial framework.

**291.** (C) Narasimhavarman I after sacking the Chalukyan capital
Narasimhavarman I, the powerful Pallava king, assumed the title Vatapikonda after his decisive military victory over the Chalukyas. He led his forces into the heart of the Deccan and successfully captured the Chalukyan capital, Vatapi. This conquest was a monumental event in southern history, effectively avenging previous defeats and demonstrating the military might of the Pallava dynasty at its zenith during the middle of the seventh century.

**292.** (D) Utpala dynasty of Kashmir
Queen Didda was a formidable and controversial figure who ruled Kashmir during the tenth century. She belonged to the Utpala dynasty and initially governed as a regent before eventually assuming full sovereign authority. Her long tenure was marked by her efforts to maintain political stability and her ruthless suppression of internal rebellions. She is one of the few women in Indian history to have exercised absolute power as a ruling monarch.

**293.** (C) THE Roman Empire
During the Gupta era, India's long-standing maritime trade with the Roman Empire experienced a significant decline. This shift was caused by various factors, including the internal instability of the Roman state and changing patterns of global commerce. To compensate for this loss, Indian merchants shifted their focus toward Southeast Asia and China, initiating a new era of maritime expansion that fostered

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**66.** The Gurjara-Pratiharas played a crucial role in the early medieval period by:
(A) Resisting the advance of the Arabs from Sindh into the Indian heartland.
(B) Facilitating trade with the Arab world.
(C) Patronizing the development of the Nagara style of temple architecture.
(D) Establishing the first all-India empire after the Guptas.

**67.** Which of the following is the most accurate description of 'Jouhar' and 'Saka'?
(A) 'Saka' was self-immolation by women and 'Jouhar' was the final charge by men.
(B) Both terms refer to the final charge of warriors on the battlefield.
(C) 'Jouhar' was female self-immolation and 'Saka' was the final charge.
(D) Both terms refer to the act of mass self-immolation by the royal family.

**68.** The invasions of Ubedulla and Budel were early Arab attempts to invade which region?
(A) Kashmir
(B) Gujarat
(C) Kannauj
(D) Sindh

**69.** Which of the following statements about 'Mansabdari' system is incorrect?
(A) It determined the rank and status of a government official.
(B) The ranks were divided into 'zat' and 'sawar'.
(C) It was a purely military system with no civil functions.
(D) The mansabs were not hereditary in principle.

**70.** Match the items in List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Ruler)
P. Bappa Rawal
Q. Lalitaditya
R. Dahir
S. Suheldeva
List II: (Associated with)
1. Resistance against Mahmud of Ghazni
2. King of Sindh during Arab invasion
3. King of Kashmir who defeated Arabs
4. King of Guhil dynasty who resisted Arabs
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**71.** The 'Jagir' was a piece of land assigned to a Mughal official. What was the key difference between a 'Jagir' and 'Watan Jagir'?
(A) 'Jagir' was for salary, 'Watan Jagir' was for religious grants.
(B) 'Jagir' was in the Deccan, 'Watan Jagir' was in North India.
(C) 'Jagir' was granted by the Emperor, 'Watan Jagir' by the Subedar.
(D) Jagir was transferable, while Watan Jagir was hereditary.

**72.** Muhammad Ghori's primary objective in invading India, differing from Mahmud of Ghazni, was:
(A) Establishing a permanent Islamic empire in India.
(B) To solely plunder wealth.
(C) To destroy Hindu temples.
(D) To secure a safe haven from Mongol threats.

**73.** Consider the following statements about the Chalukyas of Badami:
1. They were a major power in the Deccan region.
2. They were one of the dynasties that resisted the early Arab invasions.
3. Their most famous ruler was Pulakeshin II.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**74.** The concept of 'Amaram' under the Vijayanagara rulers is most analogous to which system in North India?
(A) The Ikta system
(B) The Zamindari system
(C) The Ryotwari system
(D) The Mahalwari system

**75.** The term 'Ikta' literally means:
(A) Crown land
(B) Barren land
(C) Hereditary land
(D) Portion or share

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**76.** The invasion of Timur led to the collapse of which ruling dynasty and paved the way for the rise of the Saiyads?
(A) Khalji Dynasty
(B) Tughlaq Dynasty
(C) Lodi Dynasty
(D) Slave Dynasty

**77.** Consider the following statements regarding the Saiyad dynasty:
Statement I: The Saiyad dynasty's rule was largely confined to Delhi and its surrounding areas.
Statement II: The rulers of the Saiyad dynasty were powerful emperors who controlled most of the Indian subcontinent.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I is correct.
(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II is correct.

**78.** The Battle of Ghaghara (1529) was significant because:
(A) It was Babur's first major victory in India.
(B) It was fought between Babur and Rana Sanga.
(C) It led to the capture of the fortress of Chanderi.
(D) It crushed the final eastern Afghan resistance to Babur.

**79.** The resistance from the Jat community against Mughal rule, particularly under Aurangzeb, was concentrated in which region?
(A) The area around Delhi, Mathura, and Agra
(B) The Punjab
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Bundelkhand

**80.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The reign of Aurangzeb witnessed a series of rebellions by groups like the Jats, Sikhs, and Satnamis.
Reason (R): Aurangzeb's religious policies and high land revenue demands caused widespread discontent among various sections of the population.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**81.** Who was the ruler when Humayun returned to India to reclaim his throne in 1555?
(A) Sher Shah Suri
(B) Sikandar Suri
(C) Islam Shah Suri
(D) Adil Shah Suri

**82.** The Satnami rebellion during Aurangzeb's reign was a revolt by:
(A) A community of peasants and artisans with a religious character.
(B) A group of Rajput chiefs.
(C) A sect of Afghan soldiers.
(D) A tribe from the northeastern frontier.

**83.** Which battle marked the definitive end of the Suri dynasty and the restoration of Mughal rule under Humayun?
(A) Battle of Chausa
(B) Battle of Kannauj (Bilgram)
(C) Battle of Sirhind
(D) Second Battle of Panipat

**84.** Consider the following statements regarding the rise of regional kingdoms:
1. The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms emerged during the decline of the Tughlaq dynasty.
2. The founders of the Vijayanagara kingdom were Harihara and Bukka.
3. The Bahmani kingdom was a Shia state from its inception.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**85.** Which Peshwa is often called the "second founder of the Maratha state" for his role in reviving Maratha power after Aurangzeb's death?
(A) Baji Rao I

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(B) Balaji Baji Rao
(C) Balaji Vishwanath
(D) Madhavrao

**86.** Arrange the following dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate in the correct chronological order:
1. Khalji
2. Tughlaq
3. Slave
4. Lodi
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 3, 1, 2, 4
(B) 1, 3, 2, 4
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

**87.** The administrative system of the Turks in India during the Sultanate period was largely based on the Perso-Arabic system. The highest officer in the provincial administration was the:
(A) Kotwal
(B) Qazi
(C) Amil
(D) Muqti or Wali

**88.** The most important department in the Vijayanagara administration, responsible for land revenue, was called:
(A) Athavana
(B) Kandachara
(C) Kaval
(D) Rayasala

**89.** Match the items in List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Mughal Official)
P. Mir Bakshi
Q. Khan-i-Saman
R. Sadr-us-Sudur
S. Qazi-ul-Quzat
List II: (Function)
1. In charge of the imperial household
2. Head of the judicial department
3. Head of the military department
4. Head of the religious department
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

**90.** In Shivaji's Ashtapradhan, the minister responsible for foreign affairs was known as:
(A) Sumant / Dabir
(B) Peshwa
(C) Amatya
(D) Nyayadhish

**91.** What was the distinguishing feature of Shershah Suri's land revenue administration?
(A) The introduction of a uniform tax of 50% for all lands.
(B) The collection of revenue exclusively in cash payments.
(C) The abolition of all intermediaries between state and peasant.
(D) Measurement and assessment based on land fertility.

**92.** The disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom led to the formation of five independent Sultanates. Which of the following is the correct list?
(A) Bijapur, Golconda, Gulbarga, Bidar, Berar
(B) Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar, Bidar, and Berar
(C) Daulatabad, Golconda, Ahmednagar, Bidar, and Berar
(D) Bijapur, Warangal, Ahmednagar, Bidar, and Berar

**93.** Consider the following statements regarding the Treaty of Purandar (1665):
Statement I: The Treaty of Purandar (1665) was a major setback for Shivaji.
Statement II: Under the treaty, Shivaji had to surrender a large number of his forts to the Mughals and agree to serve them.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement I is incorrect, Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II is correct.

**94.** The concept of 'Hindvi Swaraj' as envisioned by Shivaji most appropriately means:
(A) A kingdom established for the exclusive use of Hindus.
(B) An empire governed by the strict principles

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Reason (R): Sultanate rulers like Balban and Alauddin Khalji had to build new forts and maintain a large standing army primarily to deal with the Mongol threat.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**116.** The resistance of Raja Suheldeva is associated with his victory over the forces of:
(A) Muhammad Ghori
(B) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
(C) Muhammad bin Qasim
(D) A general under Mahmud of Ghazni.

**117.** Which Sultanate ruler is known for his 'token currency' experiment?
(A) Alauddin Khalji
(B) Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq
(C) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(D) Firoz Shah Tughlaq

**118.** The primary cause of conflict between the Mughals and the Sikhs began during the reign of:
(A) Akbar
(B) Jahangir
(C) Shah Jahan
(D) Aurangzeb

**119.** Consider the following statements about Ahmad Shah Abdali:
1. He was a general of Nadir Shah who later established his own rule in Afghanistan.
2. He inflicted a crushing defeat on the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat.
3. His primary aim was to replace the Mughal dynasty and establish Afghan rule all over India.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**120.** The disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom into five separate sultanates is a key event in the history of:
(A) The Deccan
(B) The Delhi Sultanate
(C) Bengal
(D) Gujarat

**121.** The foundation of 'Hindvi Swaraj' by Shivaji was a declaration of:
(A) War against all non-Marathas.
(B) Allegiance to the Mughal emperor.
(C) A sovereign, independent kingdom.
(D) A purely religious Hindu state.

**122.** Under the Peshwas, the Maratha empire expanded significantly. This expansion was primarily driven by:
(A) Aggressive military levy of Chauth.
(B) Defensive policy to protect their homeland.
(C) A desire for cultural exchange with North India.
(D) Alliances with European trading companies.

**123.** The administration of Shivaji was remarkable for its:
(A) Decentralized structure with powerful feudal lords.
(B) Dependence on foreign advisors for all key decisions.
(C) Adoption of the Mughal Mansabdari system without any changes.
(D) Strong central bureaucracy and control.

**124.** Match the items in List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Ikta
Q. Mansab
R. Amaram
S. Ashtapradhan
List II: (System/Kingdom)
1. Mughal Empire
2. Vijayanagara Empire
3. Shivaji's Administration
4. Delhi Sultanate
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**125.** The Battle of Khanwa was more decisive and significant than the First Battle of Panipat because:

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(B) Ibrahim Lodi
(C) Medini Rai
(D) Mahmud Lodi

**106.** Match the items in List I with List II regarding historical events:
List I: (Event)
P. Invasion of Nadir Shah
Q. Invasion of Timur
R. Third Battle of Panipat
S. First Battle of Panipat
List II: (Year)
1. 1526
2. 1761
3. 1398
4. 1739
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

**107.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement about the Vijayanagara Empire?
(A) It was founded by Harihara and Bukka.
(B) It was known for its magnificent temple architecture.
(C) The rulers patronized Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, and Tamil literature.
(D) It successfully repelled the Bahmani kingdom in the Battle of Talikota.

**108.** The main cause for the rise of the Maratha power under Shivaji was:
(A) Large-scale financial support from the Mughal Emperor.
(B) Strategic opportunities during Mughal and Deccan decline.
(C) Alliances formed with the Portuguese for modern weaponry.
(D) Discovery of rich diamond mines within Maratha territory.

**109.** Consider the following statements regarding the Peshwas:
Statement I: The Peshwas, originally prime ministers, became the de facto rulers of the Maratha Empire.
Statement II: The office of the Peshwa became hereditary starting from Balaji Vishwanath.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I is correct.
(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II is correct.

**110.** In the context of Mughal administration, the 'subas' were:
(A) Military cantonments
(B) Districts
(C) Royal workshops
(D) Provinces

**111.** The term 'Nadu' as an administrative unit is most closely associated with which medieval kingdom?
(A) South Indian kingdoms like Cholas and Vijayanagara
(B) Delhi Sultanate
(C) Mughal Empire
(D) Maratha Empire

**112.** The concept of 'Sulah-i-kul' or 'universal peace' was a cornerstone of the administrative and religious policy of which Mughal emperor?
(A) Babur
(B) Akbar
(C) Humayun
(D) Aurangzeb

**113.** What was 'Jaziya'?
(A) A tax on the import of horses.
(B) A poll-tax on non-Muslim subjects in an Islamic state.
(C) A land revenue tax based on the crop yield.
(D) A toll tax collected at river crossings.

**114.** The term 'Hundi' signifies a medieval Indian instrument that can be best compared to a modern:
(A) Cheque or bill of exchange
(B) Share certificate
(C) Government bond
(D) Property deed

**115.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Mongol invasions posed one of the most serious challenges to the survival of the Delhi Sultanate.

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of the Vedas.
(C) A decentralized confederacy of regional Maratha chiefs.
(D) A sovereign state free from external and foreign rule.

**95.** Who was the most expansionist and aggressive of the Peshwas, known for his rapid campaigns and the policy of "Hindu Pad Padshahi"?
(A) Baji Rao I
(B) Balaji Vishwanath
(C) Balaji Baji Rao
(D) Raghunath Rao

**96.** The term 'Polygar' (Palaiyakkarar) denotes a system of military-tenurial governance that was prominent in which region before and during British rule?
(A) Bengal
(B) Southern India
(C) Punjab
(D) Rajasthan

**97.** Bappa Rawal of the Guhil dynasty is historically significant for:
(A) Founding the city of Jaipur.
(B) Resisting the Arab invasions in the 8th century.
(C) Fighting against Muhammad Ghori at the Battle of Tarain.
(D) Forming an alliance with Akbar.

**98.** The primary conflict between Muhammad Ghori and Prithviraj Chauhan was over the control of:
(A) The fortress of Tabarhinda (Bhatinda)
(B) Gujarat
(C) Kannauj
(D) Delhi

**99.** The 'Khalisa' land in the Sultanate and Mughal administration referred to:
(A) Land granted to religious institutions.
(B) Uncultivated land.
(C) Land reserved directly for the imperial treasury.
(D) Land assigned to nobles in lieu of salary.

**100.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): Shershah Suri's reign was short, but his administrative reforms were highly significant.
Reason (R): Many of his reforms, especially in land revenue and administration, were adopted and built upon by the Mughal emperor Akbar.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**101.** The 'sacrifice of Dahir' refers to the death of the king of Sindh while fighting against:
(A) Alexander the Great
(B) Mahmud of Ghazni
(C) Muhammad bin Qasim
(D) Muhammad Ghori

**102.** The term 'Deshmukh' refers to a hereditary landholder in medieval India, particularly in:
(A) The Bengal region
(B) The Deccan plateau
(C) The Punjab plains
(D) The Gangetic valley

**103.** Consider the following statements about the Lodi Dynasty:
1. They were the first Afghan rulers of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. Sikandar Lodi founded the city of Agra.
3. The dynasty ended after Ibrahim Lodi's defeat at the Battle of Panipat.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

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**104.** Who was the Gond ruler who put up a valiant resistance against the Mughal invasion under Akbar?
(A) Rani Durgavati
(B) Sangram Shah
(C) Dalpat Shah
(D) Bir Narayan

**105.** The Battle of Chanderi (1528) was fought between Babur and:
(A) Rana Sanga

(A) It was fought against a larger army.
(B) It resulted in the capture of more wealth.
(C) It neutralized the Rajput confederacy.
(D) It was the first time gunpowder was used in India.

**126.** The siege of Chittorgarh by Akbar is a poignant episode in Mughal-Rajput relations. What followed the capture of the fort?
(A) Akbar formed a matrimonial alliance with the Rana of Mewar.
(B) The fort was returned to Rana Udai Singh under a treaty.
(C) Akbar appointed a Rajput commander as the governor of the fort.
(D) Akbar ordered a general massacre of the fort's inhabitants.

**127.** The Satnami revolt against Aurangzeb was a manifestation of:
(A) Economic and religious peasant grievances.
(B) The ambition of a regional chieftain.
(C) A palace conspiracy involving Mughal princes.
(D) The intervention of a foreign power.

**128.** What was the most important reason for the downfall of the Vijayanagara Empire?
(A) A series of weak rulers.
(B) Defeat at the Battle of Talikota.
(C) A prolonged civil war between different claimants to the throne.
(D) The Portuguese cutting off their horse trade.

**129.** Consider the following statements regarding the Delhi Sultanate:
Statement I: The administration under the Turkish Sultans was primarily military in nature.
Statement II: The Sultans had to constantly deal with internal rebellions and external threats, making a strong army essential for survival.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I is correct.
(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both statements are incorrect.

**130.** The 'Department of Diwan-i-kohi', created by Muhammad bin Tughlaq, dealt with:
(A) Agriculture
(B) Slaves
(C) Charity
(D) Public works

**131.** Who was the last effective ruler of the Slave Dynasty?
(A) Iltutmish
(B) Razia Sultan
(C) Ghiyas-ud-din Balban
(D) Nasir-ud-din Mahmud

**132.** The Mongol leader who invaded India and sacked Delhi in 1398 was:
(A) Genghis Khan
(B) Kublai Khan
(C) Hulegu Khan
(D) Timur (Tamerlane)

**133.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The reign of the Tughlaq dynasty marked both the zenith and the beginning of the decline of the Delhi Sultanate.
Reason (R): While Muhammad bin Tughlaq's empire was the largest in the Sultanate's history, his failed experiments and the weak successors led to its rapid disintegration.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**134.** Humayun lost his kingdom to Sher Shah Suri after being defeated in the battles of:
(A) Panipat and Ghaghara
(B) Chausa and Kannauj
(C) Chanderi and Khanwa
(D) Sirhind and Machhiwara

**135.** The resistance of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga against the Mughals was led by:
(A) Baz Bahadur
(B) Chand Bibi
(C) Durga Prasad
(D) Rani Durgavati

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(A) The Vijayanagara Empire
(B) The Marathas
(C) The Mughals
(D) The Bahmani Sultanate

**157.** The primary reason for the conflict between the Gurjara-Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas (the 'Tripartite Struggle') was to control the city of:
(A) Delhi
(B) Ujjain
(C) Kannauj
(D) Pataliputra

**158.** The founder of the Saiyad dynasty, Khizr Khan, claimed to be a descendant of:
(A) Genghis Khan
(B) Timur
(C) The last Tughlaq sultan
(D) The Prophet Muhammad

**159.** Nadir Shah's invasion of India in 1739 took place during the reign of which Mughal emperor?
(A) Muhammad Shah
(B) Farrukhsiyar
(C) Ahmad Shah
(D) Alamgir II

**160.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Battle of Talikota in 1565 marked the end of the Vijayanagara Empire's glory.
Reason (R): The combined forces of the Deccan Sultanates of Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda, and Bidar decisively defeated the Vijayanagara army.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**161.** The Maratha claim of 'Sardeshmukhi' was:
(A) A tax of one-fourth of the revenue.
(B) A ten percent levy above the Chauth.
(C) A tax on salt production.
(D) A fee for participating in trade fairs.

**162.** The administrative system of Shershah Suri served as a model for:
(A) Akbar
(B) Shivaji
(C) The Bahmani Sultans
(D) The British

**163.** The term 'Nadu' in Chola and Vijayanagara administration refers to:
(A) The capital city
(B) A provincial unit
(C) A group of villages
(D) A military outpost

**164.** Consider the following statements about 'Jouhar':
1. It was a practice of mass suicide by enemy soldiers to avoid capture.
2. It was performed by Rajput women to protect their honor.
3. It was often followed by the men performing 'Saka'.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**165.** The Arab traveler Al-Masudi described the power and prestige of which Indian dynasty, known for its resistance to Arab expansion?
(A) The Palas
(B) The Rashtrakutas
(C) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
(D) The Cholas

**166.** Mahmud of Ghazni's most famous invasion was his attack on the Somnath temple in:
(A) 1001 AD
(B) 1025 AD
(C) 1018 AD
(D) 1030 AD

**167.** The First and Second Battles of Tarain were fought between Muhammad Ghori and:
(A) Jaichand of Kannauj
(B) Rana Kumbha of Mewar
(C) Raja Suheldeva
(D) Prithviraj Chauhan

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Qasim led to the establishment of Arab rule in Sindh.
Statement II: This rule quickly expanded to cover the entire Indian subcontinent.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(B) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(C) Both statements are true.
(D) Both statements are false.

**147.** Bappa Rawal of the Guhil dynasty is celebrated in Rajasthani folklore for his role in:
(A) Defeating Muhammad Ghori.
(B) Submitting to Akbar's suzerainty.
(C) Resisting the early Arab incursions.
(D) Building the city of Jodhpur.

**148.** Mahmud of Ghazni's multiple invasions of India were primarily motivated by:
(A) The desire to establish a vast empire in India.
(B) The religious zeal to convert the Indian population.
(C) A personal rivalry with the rulers of Kannauj.
(D) Plundering wealth for his Central Asian empire.

**149.** The Battle of Chausa (1539) was a significant victory for:
(A) Humayun against the ruler of Gujarat.
(B) Akbar against Hemu.
(C) Sher Shah Suri against Humayun.
(D) Babur against the Lodis.

**150.** Arrange the following events from the reign of Akbar in chronological order:
1. Abolition of Jaziya
2. Siege of Chittorgarh
3. Promulgation of Din-i-Ilahi
4. Second Battle of Panipat
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(A) 4, 1, 2, 3
(B) 1, 4, 2, 3
(C) 4, 2, 1, 3
(D) 2, 4, 1, 3

**151.** The Jat rebellion against Aurangzeb was led by leaders like:
(A) Banda Bahadur
(B) Chhatrasal
(C) Durgadas Rathore
(D) Churaman and Badan Singh

**152.** Match the items in List I with List II regarding Shivaji's Ashtapradhan:
List I: (Minister)
P. Amatya
Q. Sachiv
R. Senapati
S. Nyayadhish
List II: (Portfolio)
1. Commander-in-Chief
2. Chief Justice
3. Finance Minister
4. Royal Correspondent
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

**153.** The administrative system of the Delhi Sultanate was a blend of Perso-Islamic and Indian traditions. The department that dealt with state correspondence was called:
(A) Diwan-i-Arz
(B) Diwan-i-Risalat
(C) Diwan-i-Insha
(D) Diwan-i-Bandagan

**154.** What was the 'Mansab' in the Mughal administration?
(A) A rank that determined a noble's salary and military obligations.
(B) A hereditary title granted to loyal nobles.
(C) A piece of land given as a religious endowment.
(D) A tax collected from traders.

**155.** Which of the following is the most accurate statement about the 'Ikta' system?
(A) It gave the holder permanent ownership of the land.
(B) It was introduced by the Mughal emperor Akbar.
(C) It was exclusively used to pay religious scholars.
(D) It was a non-hereditary revenue assignment.

**156.** The 'Chauth' and 'Sardeshmukhi' were two important taxes collected by:

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**136.** The term 'Saka' in the context of Rajput warfare refers to:
(A) Fighting to the death by male warriors.
(B) A peace offering to the enemy.
(C) The act of taking a new wife after winning a battle.
(D) A specific type of sword used by Rajput cavalry.

**137.** Which of the following was NOT a reason for the rise of the Maratha Empire?
(A) The unifying effect of the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra.
(B) The mountainous geography of the region.
(C) Continuous support from Mughal emperors.
(D) The military and administrative experience gained in the service of Deccan Sultanates.

**138.** The office of the Peshwa became the most powerful under whose leadership, making the Maratha king a nominal ruler?
(A) Baji Rao I
(B) Shivaji
(C) Sambhaji
(D) Tarabai

**139.** Consider the following statements about Shivaji's administration:
1. It was called the 'Ashtapradhan', a council of eight ministers.
2. The posts in the Ashtapradhan were hereditary.
3. The Peshwa was the head of the council, equivalent to a prime minister.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**140.** In Mughal administration, who was the 'Mir Bakshi'?
(A) The head of the revenue department.
(B) The head of the military department and paymaster general.
(C) The head of the judiciary.
(D) The minister for religious and charitable endowments.

**141.** The system of 'dagh' (branding of horses) and 'chehra' (descriptive roll of soldiers) was strictly enforced by:
(A) Iltutmish
(B) Balban
(C) Alauddin Khalji
(D) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

**142.** What is the correct chronological order of the founding of the successor states of the Bahmani kingdom?
(A) Berar, Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda, Bidar
(B) Bijapur, Berar, Ahmednagar, Bidar, Golconda
(C) Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Berar, Golconda, Bidar
(D) Berar, Ahmednagar, Bidar, Bijapur, Golconda

**143.** Which of the following statements about the Battle of Talikota is correct?
(A) It resulted in the sack of the city of Vijayanagara (Hampi).
(B) It was fought between the Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Kingdom.
(C) The Vijayanagara army was led by Krishnadevaraya.
(D) It established the supremacy of the Vijayanagara Empire in the Deccan.

**144.** 'Amaram' was a land tenure system in the Vijayanagara Empire where land was granted to:
(A) Brahmins for religious services.
(B) Military commanders (Nayakas) for maintaining troops.
(C) Peasants for direct cultivation.
(D) Village communities for collective farming.

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**145.** The term 'Polygar' refers to:
(A) A professional guild of weavers in medieval South India.
(B) A feudal lord or a subordinate chieftain in South India.
(C) A type of merchant ship used for trade in the Indian Ocean.
(D) A priest of a major temple complex.

**146.** Consider the following statements regarding the Arab invasion:
Statement I: The invasion of Muhammad bin

**168.** Which dynasty was ruling Delhi at the time of Timur's invasion?
(A) The Tughlaqs
(B) The Khaljis
(C) The Saiyads
(D) The Lodis

**169.** The introduction of token currency, the establishment of the Diwan-i-kohi, and the transfer of the capital to Daulatabad are associated with which Sultan?
(A) Alauddin Khalji
(B) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(C) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(D) Sikandar Lodi

**170.** Which of the following wars was NOT fought by Babur?
(A) Battle of Chausa
(B) First Battle of Panipat
(C) Battle of Khanwa
(D) Battle of Ghaghara

**171.** The execution of Guru Arjan Dev by Jahangir was a turning point in the relationship between the Mughals and the:
(A) Jats
(B) Satnamis
(C) Rajputs
(D) Sikhs

**172.** The Bahmani kingdom was established in the Deccan as a revolt against the authority of:
(A) Alauddin Khalji
(B) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(C) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(D) The Vijayanagara Empire

**173.** The Nayaka system of administration, where military chiefs were given land in return for service, was a key feature of the:
(A) Mughal Empire
(B) Delhi Sultanate
(C) Vijayanagara Empire
(D) Maratha State

**174.** Balaji Baji Rao, the third Peshwa, is associated with which major military disaster for the Marathas?
(A) The Battle of Rakshasi-Tangadi
(B) The defeat against Nadir Shah
(C) The Treaty of Bassein
(D) The Third Battle of Panipat

**175.** The 'Zabt' system of land revenue, which was further developed by Todar Mal, was a key feature of the administration of:
(A) The Mughal Emperor Akbar.
(B) Shershah Suri
(C) Shivaji
(D) Alauddin Khalji

**176.** What does 'Sulah-i-kul' mean?
(A) Total victory
(B) Absolute peace
(C) Religious war
(D) Divine faith

**177.** The Arab invasion of Sindh in 712 AD was led by:
(A) Ubedulla
(B) Muhammad bin Qasim
(C) Budel
(D) Al-Hajjaj

**178.** Consider the following statements regarding Muhammad Ghori:
Statement I: Muhammad Ghori's invasions led to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.
Statement II: Unlike Mahmud of Ghazni, Ghori aimed to establish a lasting empire in India and left his territories in the hands of his trusted general, Qutb-ud-din Aibak.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I is correct.
(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II is correct.

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**179.** The founder of the Tughlaq dynasty was:
(A) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(B) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(C) Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq
(D) Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah Tughlaq

**180.** The Afghan ruler who drove the Mughal emperor Humayun out of India was:
(A) Ibrahim Lodi
(B) Sikandar Lodi
(C) Mahmud Lodi

**288.** In the administrative system of the Turks (Delhi Sultanate), the 'Wazir' was the head of the:
(A) Military department (Diwan-i-Arz)
(B) Finance and revenue department (Diwan-i-Wizarat)
(C) Royal correspondence (Diwan-i-Insha)
(D) Foreign department (Diwan-i-Risalat)

**289.** The 'Sardeshmukhi' was an additional tax of 10% demanded by the Marathas on the basis of their claim as:
(A) The protectors of the land from foreign invasion.
(B) Hereditary head Sardeshmukhs of Maharashtra.
(C) The supreme power in the Deccan.
(D) The managers of trade routes.

**290.** What is a 'Polygar'?
(A) A subordinate feudal chieftain in South India.
(B) A multilingual scholar in the Mughal court.
(C) A type of spice traded from the Malabar coast.
(D) A community of weavers in Bengal.

**291.** The sacrifice of King Dahir occurred during the:
(A) First Battle of Tarain
(B) Invasion of Mahmud of Ghazni
(C) Arab invasion of Sindh
(D) Mongol raid on Punjab

**292.** The resistance offered by Raja Suheldeva was against the army of:
(A) Muhammad Ghori
(B) Muhammad bin Qasim
(C) Timur
(D) A general of Mahmud of Ghazni

**293.** The Khalji dynasty came to power by overthrowing the last effective rulers of the:
(A) Tughlaq dynasty
(B) Lodi dynasty
(C) Slave dynasty
(D) Saiyad dynasty

**294.** The First Battle of Panipat led to the end of the Lodi dynasty and the establishment of the:
(A) Suri Empire
(B) Mughal Empire
(C) Khalji Sultanate
(D) Maratha Empire

**295.** The resistance of the Jats, Sikhs, and Satnamis were significant challenges faced by which Mughal emperor?
(A) Akbar
(B) Shahjahan
(C) Jahangir
(D) Aurangzeb

**296.** The capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, Hampi, was located on the banks of the river:
(A) Tungabhadra
(B) Godavari
(C) Krishna
(D) Kaveri

**297.** The formal establishment of 'Hindvi Swaraj' was marked by:
(A) Shivaji's victory over Afzal Khan
(B) Shivaji's sack of Surat
(C) Shivaji's coronation at Raigad
(D) Shivaji's escape from Agra

**298.** The administration of Shershah Suri is a classic example of:
(A) Efficient and centralized governance.
(B) A decentralized feudal structure.
(C) A system borrowed entirely from the Rajputs.
(D) A continuation of the Tughlaq policies without change.

**299.** In the Vijayanagara administration, 'Amaram' grants were given for what purpose?
(A) To promote art and literature.
(B) To build and maintain temples.
(C) To encourage new settlements in barren lands.
(D) To maintain a fixed number of troops for the king.

**300.** The concept of 'Mansab' was central to the Mughal administrative structure, defining a noble's:
(A) Religious affiliation and duties.
(B) Rank, salary, and military obligation.
(C) Hereditary land rights.
(D) Trade and commercial privileges.



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**193.** The Mughal provincial administration was a replica of the central administration. The governor of a province ('suba') was called the:
(A) Diwan
(B) Subedar or Nazim
(C) Bakshi
(D) Kotwal

**194.** The term 'Hundi' is found in medieval sources in the context of:
(A) Trade and finance
(B) Military organization
(C) Revenue collection
(D) Judicial pronouncements

**195.** Which king of the Guhil dynasty is noted for his resistance against early Arab invaders?
(A) Maharana Pratap
(B) Rana Sanga
(C) Bappa Rawal
(D) Rana Kumbha

**196.** The invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni primarily targeted:
(A) The southern kingdoms of the Cholas and Pandyas.
(B) The northeastern region of Bengal and Assam.
(C) The remote areas of Kashmir and the Himalayas.
(D) Prosperous northern temple towns.

**197.** The Khalji dynasty was founded by:
(A) Alauddin Khalji
(B) Qutb-ud-din Mubarak Shah
(C) Jalal-ud-din Firoz Khalji
(D) Malik Kafur

**198.** The Battle of Khanwa (1527) was fought between Babur and the Rajput forces led by:
(A) Rana Pratap of Mewar
(B) Rana Sanga of Mewar
(C) Medini Rai of Chanderi
(D) Raja Man Singh of Amber

**199.** Nadir Shah's invasion led to the capture of immense wealth from Delhi, including the famous:
(A) The library of Nalanda
(B) The gates of the Somnath temple
(C) The entire fleet of the Mughal navy
(D) Koh-i-Noor diamond and the Peacock Throne

**200.** The Mughal emperor Jahangir's reign saw a continuation of resistance from the Rajputs of:
(A) Mewar
(B) Amber (Jaipur)
(C) Marwar (Jodhpur)
(D) Bikaner

**201.** Which ruler's reign is considered the 'Golden Age' of the Vijayanagara Empire?
(A) Harihara I
(B) Bukka I
(C) Krishnadevaraya
(D) Achyuta Deva Raya

**202.** The office of the Peshwa became supreme and hereditary during the reign of which Maratha Chhatrapati?
(A) Shahu
(B) Shivaji
(C) Sambhaji
(D) Rajaram

**203.** The 'Diwan-i-Wizarat' in the Sultanate administration was primarily the department of:
(A) Military
(B) Foreign Affairs
(C) Religious Affairs
(D) Revenue and Finance

**204.** The administrative reforms of Shershah Suri included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Introduction of a silver 'Rupiya' and copper 'Dam'.
(B) Use of the Mughal Mansabdari system.
(C) Building and maintenance of roads, like the Grand Trunk Road.
(D) A well-organized espionage system.

**205.** The term 'Jagir' in Mughal India referred to:
(A) A hereditary piece of land owned by a zamindar.
(B) Land under direct control of the emperor.
(C) Assigned revenue in lieu of salary.
(D) A tax-free grant given to religious figures.

**206.** 'Jaziya' was reimposed on non-Muslims by which Mughal emperor after it had been abolished by Akbar?

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(A) Jahangir
(B) Shahjahan
(C) Bahadur Shah I
(D) Aurangzeb

**207.** Which Chalukya king is credited with having defeated the Arabs, thus checking their southern advance from Sindh?
(A) Vikramaditya II
(B) Pulakeshin II
(C) Vikramaditya I
(D) Kirtivarman II

**208.** The Lodi dynasty, which ruled the Delhi Sultanate before the Mughals, was of what ethnic origin?
(A) Turkic
(B) Afghan
(C) Mongol
(D) Persian

**209.** Humayun's tomb in Delhi is a fine example of early Mughal architecture. Who commissioned its construction?
(A) Humayun himself
(B) His wife, Hamida Banu Begum
(C) His son, Akbar
(D) His sister, Gulbadan Begum

**210.** The Sikh military community, the 'Khalsa', was founded by which Guru in response to Mughal persecution?
(A) Guru Gobind Singh
(B) Guru Nanak
(C) Guru Tegh Bahadur
(D) Guru Arjan Dev

**211.** The Bahmani Kingdom was predominantly in conflict with which neighboring empire?
(A) The Gajapatis of Orissa
(B) The Sultanate of Malwa
(C) The Vijayanagara Empire
(D) The Mughal Empire

**212.** The Maratha victory over the Portuguese and the capture of Bassein was a major achievement of which Peshwa?
(A) Balaji Vishwanath
(B) Balaji Baji Rao
(C) Madhavrao
(D) Baji Rao I

**213.** A key feature of Shivaji's revenue administration was:
(A) The abolition of all taxes on peasants.
(B) The collection of revenue through hereditary zamindars.
(C) Assessment through land measurement.
(D) The imposition of a flat 50% tax on all agricultural produce.

**214.** The head of the provincial administration under the Turkish Sultans was known as the:
(A) Kotwal
(B) Wali or Muqti
(C) Shiqdar
(D) Amil

**215.** The 'Zat' and 'Sawar' ranks were the two main components of which system?
(A) The Ikta system
(B) The Nayaka system
(C) The Ryotwari system
(D) The Mansabdari system

**216.** Consider the following statements regarding the Arab invasion of Sindh:
Statement I: The Arab invasion of Sindh had a limited political impact on India as a whole.
Statement II: The Arabs' advance was checked by powerful kingdoms like the Gurjara-Pratiharas, and they remained confined to Sindh.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Only Statement I is correct.
(B) Only Statement II is correct.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Neither Statement I nor Statement II is correct.

**217.** The last ruler of the Lodi dynasty, defeated by Babur, was:
(A) Bahlul Lodi
(B) Sikandar Lodi
(C) Ibrahim Lodi
(D) Daulat Khan Lodi

**218.** The Rajput state of Mewar put up the most prolonged resistance to Mughal rule. Which ruler continued the struggle after the fall of Chittorgarh?
(A) Maharana Pratap
(B) Rana Udai Singh

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(C) Rana Sanga
(D) Raja Man Singh

**219.** The five sultanates of the Deccan that arose from the ashes of the Bahmani kingdom often fought amongst themselves, but they united against:
(A) The Mughal Empire
(B) The Marathas
(C) The Portuguese
(D) The Vijayanagara Empire

**220.** The concept of 'Hindvi Swaraj' is most closely associated with:
(A) Krishnadevaraya
(B) Shivaji
(C) Maharana Pratap
(D) Guru Gobind Singh

**221.** The 'Mir Bakshi' under the Mughals performed duties that are most similar to a modern:
(A) Senior Finance Minister
(B) Chief Judicial Officer
(C) Military Paymaster General
(D) Federal Home Minister

**222.** 'Patta' (title deed) and 'Qabuliyat' (deed of agreement) were administrative innovations in land revenue introduced by:
(A) Alauddin Khalji
(B) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(C) Akbar
(D) The regional ruler Shershah Suri.

**223.** The term 'Amaram' in the Vijayanagara context refers to:
(A) A grant of land or revenue to a military chief.
(B) A hereditary village headman.
(C) A tax on trade and commerce.
(D) A royal palace.

**224.** Consider the following statements:
1. 'Chauth' was a tax amounting to one-fourth of the revenue of a territory.
2. It was levied by the Marathas on lands they did not directly rule.
3. Payment of 'Chauth' was a guarantee against Maratha raids.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**225.** Who among the following is known to have resisted the forces of Mahmud of Ghazni?
(A) King Dahir
(B) Raja Suheldeva
(C) Prithviraj Chauhan
(D) Bappa Rawal

**226.** The Delhi Sultan who is accused of having caused the murder of his father and predecessor, Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, was:
(A) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(B) Alauddin Khalji
(C) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(D) Kaiqubad

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**227.** The Battle of Chanderi was fought by Babur to subdue the power of:
(A) The Afghans in the east
(B) The Lodis in Delhi
(C) The Rajputs under Medini Rai
(D) The Sultan of Gujarat

**228.** The Satnamis, who revolted during the reign of Aurangzeb, were a sect of:
(A) Sikh warriors in Punjab
(B) Rajput nobles in Rajasthan
(C) Muslim merchants in Gujarat
(D) Hindu peasants in the Narnaul region

**229.** The most celebrated ruler of the Vijayanagara empire, Krishnadevaraya, belonged to which dynasty?
(A) Sangama
(B) Saluva
(C) Tuluva
(D) Aravidu

**230.** In Shivaji's Ashtapradhan, the 'Sumant' was the minister for:
(A) Finance
(B) Foreign Affairs
(C) Justice
(D) The Army

**231.** The administrative system of the Mughals was a synthesis of Indian and:
(A) British traditions
(B) Chinese traditions

(D) Sher Shah Suri

**181.** Aurangzeb's long and costly wars in the Deccan drained the Mughal treasury and are considered a major reason for the empire's decline. His main adversaries there were:
(A) The Rajputs and the Jats
(B) The Portuguese and the English
(C) Sultanates of the Deccan and Marathas.
(D) The Sikhs and the Satnamis

**182.** The founders of the Vijayanagara Kingdom, Harihara and Bukka, were originally in the service of which kingdom?
(A) The Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra
(B) The Kakatiyas of Warangal
(C) The Pandyas of Madurai
(D) The Delhi Sultanate

**183.** The Peshwas established their administrative headquarters at:
(A) Satara
(B) Raigad
(C) Bombay
(D) Pune

**184.** In the administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the 'Amil' was an official responsible for:
(A) Collecting land revenue payments.
(B) Commanding the city guard.
(C) Leading military expeditions.
(D) Dispensing justice in civil cases.

**185.** What was the primary difference between the administration of Shershah and the Mughals?
(A) Shershah's administration was more centralized.
(B) The Mughals did not use the Mansabdari system.
(C) Enduring nature of the Mughal system.
(D) Shershah relied on Afghan chiefs, while the Mughals had a diverse nobility.

**186.** The concept of 'Deshmukh' as a hereditary district officer collecting revenue is central to the medieval administration of:
(A) The regional state of Maharashtra.
(B) Bengal
(C) Punjab
(D) Kerala

**187.** Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A): The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms were constantly at war.
Reason (R): They both wanted to control the fertile Raichur doab and the sea ports of the Konkan coast.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**188.** Which of the following was a significant consequence of Timur's invasion of India?
(A) It strengthened the Tughlaq dynasty.
(B) It caused widespread destruction and fatally weakened the Delhi Sultanate.
(C) It led to the establishment of the Mughal Empire.
(D) It resulted in a long-term alliance between Delhi and Samarkand.

**189.** The Battle of Ghaghara was the last major battle fought by which conqueror in India?
(A) Mahmud of Ghazni
(B) Muhammad Ghori
(C) Babur
(D) Timur

**190.** Which of the following is NOT a correct match?
(A) Humayun - Fought against Sher Shah Suri
(B) Akbar - Siege of Chittorgarh
(C) Jahangir - Patronized painting
(D) Shahjahan - Led the Satnami resistance

**191.** The rise of the Maratha empire was facilitated by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Long periods of Deccan stability.
(B) The strong leadership of figures like Shivaji.
(C) The unifying force of the Bhakti Movement.
(D) The rugged geography of Maharashtra.

**192.** In Shivaji's administration, the 'Panditrao' was responsible for:
(A) Military strategy.
(B) Religious matters and charity.
(C) Financial management.
(D) Foreign relations.

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(D) The Mughal Empire

**247.** The term 'Ashtapradhan' refers to:
(A) The eightfold path of Buddhism
(B) A collection of eight important scriptures
(C) The eight provinces of the Mauryan Empire
(D) The council of eight ministers of Shivaji

**248.** In the Vijayanagara administrative system, the 'Nayankara' system referred to:
(A) A system of assigning land to military chiefs.
(B) A system of village self-government.
(C) The central judicial system.
(D) The department of revenue and finance.

**249.** Which of the following statements about the 'Mansabdari' system is correct?
(A) It was a hereditary system from the beginning.
(B) 'Zat' indicated the number of horses a Mansabdar had to maintain.
(C) A grading system for rank and salary.
(D) 'Sawar' indicated the personal rank and salary of the noble.

**250.** The concept of 'Sulah-i-kul' promoted by Akbar involved:
(A) A policy of peace and harmony among different religions.
(B) Forcing everyone to convert to Din-i-Ilahi.
(C) Absolute intolerance towards other religions.
(D) Forming a military alliance of all religious groups.

**251.** Which of the following rulers defeated the Arabs and checked their eastward advance from Sindh?
(A) Prithviraj Chauhan
(B) King Dahir
(C) Raja Suheldeva
(D) Gurjara-Pratiharas

**252.** The primary motive of Mahmud of Ghazni's seventeen invasions was:
(A) Spreading Islam
(B) Plundering wealth
(C) Establishing an empire in India
(D) Defeating the Rajputs

**253.** The market regulation policy was a hallmark of the reign of:
(A) Balban
(B) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(C) Alauddin Khalji
(D) Firoz Shah Tughlaq

**254.** The Third Battle of Panipat (1761) was fought between Ahmad Shah Abdali and:
(A) The Mughals
(B) The Sikhs
(C) The Rajputs
(D) The Marathas

**255.** The Jat resistance against the Mughals was particularly strong during the reign of:
(A) Aurangzeb
(B) Akbar
(C) Jahangir
(D) Shahjahan

**256.** The founder of the Bahmani Kingdom was:
(A) Mahmud Gawan
(B) Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah
(C) Firoz Shah Bahmani
(D) Muhammad Shah I

**257.** The foundation of 'Hindvi Swaraj' by Shivaji signified the establishment of:
(A) A Hindu theocratic state
(B) A sovereign indigenous rule
(C) A Maratha confederacy
(D) A tributary state of the Mughals

**258.** The administration of Shivaji is known for the:
(A) Ashtapradhan council
(B) Mansabdari system
(C) Ikta system
(D) Nayankara system

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**259.** Shershah Suri's administrative headquarters for a 'pargana' (group of villages) was managed by a Shiqdar and a Munsif. This indicates:
(A) A highly decentralized system.
(B) A purely military form of governance.
(C) A well-structured local administration.
(D) A system with no concern for revenue.

**260.** The term 'Jaziya' is best defined as:
(A) A tax on booty captured in war.
(B) A tax on agricultural land.

(C) Turkish traditions only
(D) Perso-Arabic traditions

**232.** 'Jouhar' was a practice associated with:
(A) Rajput warfare
(B) Maratha warfare
(C) Sikh religious ceremonies
(D) Sultanate court etiquette

**233.** The Guhil dynasty ruler who is credited with repelling Arab invasions was:
(A) Hammir Deva
(B) Rana Kumbha
(C) Bappa Rawal
(D) Maharana Pratap

**234.** The main purpose of Muhammad Ghori's invasions of India was:
(A) To establish a Muslim empire
(B) To plunder temples
(C) To find a refuge from the Mongols
(D) To control the spice trade

**235.** The Saiyad dynasty was established in Delhi by:
(A) Bahlul Lodi
(B) Timur
(C) Alam Shah
(D) Khizr Khan

**236.** The 'Siege of Chittorgarh' by Akbar in 1567-68 was directed against:
(A) Maharana Pratap
(B) Rana Udai Singh
(C) Rana Sanga
(D) Rana Kumbha

**237.** The Gond resistance against the Mughals was centered in the region of:
(A) Malwa
(B) Berar
(C) Garha-Katanga
(D) Khandesh

**238.** The rise of the Bahmani Kingdom was a direct consequence of the weakening of the:
(A) Khalji Dynasty
(B) Vijayanagara Empire
(C) Kakatiya Kingdom
(D) Tughlaq Dynasty

**239.** The Peshwas rose to prominence during the time of Chhatrapati:
(A) Shahu
(B) Shivaji II
(C) Sambhaji
(D) Rajaram

**240.** The land revenue system of Shershah Suri was instrumental because it:
(A) Abolished taxes on farmers.
(B) Systematic measurement and assessment.
(C) Gave land ownership to the nobles.
(D) Collected all taxes in the form of military service.

**241.** 'Ikta' in the Delhi Sultanate refers to:
(A) A hereditary land grant
(B) A revenue assignment in lieu of salary
(C) A salary paid in cash
(D) A religious tax

**242.** The Arab conquest of Sindh remained an isolated event mainly because:
(A) Resistance from the Gurjara-Pratiharas.
(B) The Caliph recalled the Arab forces.
(C) A devastating plague in the Arab army.
(D) The inhospostable desert terrain.

**243.** The first ruler of the Slave dynasty was:
(A) Iltutmish
(B) Balban
(C) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
(D) Razia Sultan

**244.** The invasion of Ahmad Shah Abdali culminated in which famous battle?
(A) The Second Battle of Panipat
(B) The Battle of Buxar
(C) The Battle of Plassey
(D) The Third Battle of Panipat

**245.** Aurangzeb's long and ultimately futile war in the Deccan was primarily against:
(A) The Portuguese
(B) The Rajputs
(C) The Marathas
(D) The British

**246.** The Battle of Talikota was fought between the Vijayanagara Empire and:
(A) The Bahmani Kingdom as a single unit
(B) An alliance of the Deccan Sultanates
(C) The Marathas

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**274.** The Saiyad dynasty ruled for a brief period after the collapse of the:
(A) Tughlaq dynasty
(B) Khalji dynasty
(C) Lodi dynasty
(D) Slave dynasty

**275.** Babur fought the Battle of Ghaghara against:
(A) The Rajputs under Rana Sanga
(B) The Sultan of Gujarat
(C) The Afghans in the east
(D) The ruler of Chanderi

**276.** The resistance of the Gond queen Rani Durgavati was against the forces of which Mughal emperor?
(A) Humayun
(B) Jahangir
(C) Shahjahan
(D) Akbar

**277.** The disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom gave rise to how many independent states?
(A) Three
(B) Four
(C) Five
(D) Six

**278.** The establishment of 'Hindvi Swaraj' was the life's mission of:
(A) Baji Rao I
(B) Shivaji
(C) Balaji Vishwanath
(D) Sambhaji

**279.** In the administration of Shivaji, who was the 'Peshwa'?
(A) The Chief Justice
(B) The Finance Minister
(C) The Foreign Minister
(D) The Prime Minister

**280.** The administration of Shershah Suri is notable for its reforms in:
(A) Land revenue, currency, and communication.
(B) Naval warfare
(C) Religious policy
(D) The Mansabdari system

**281.** The term 'Hundi' in medieval India referred to:
(A) A land grant
(B) A type of cavalry
(C) A bill of exchange
(D) A royal decree

**282.** The 'Sulah-i-kul' policy was an expression of Akbar's attempt to:
(A) Create religious tolerance and harmony.
(B) Conquer all of India.
(C) Promote a single religion, Din-i-Ilahi.
(D) Suppress the Ulemas.

**283.** Who among the following Delhi Sultans is known for having established a large slave department ('Diwan-i-Bandagan')?
(A) Iltutmish
(B) Balban
(C) Alauddin Khalji
(D) Firoz Shah Tughlaq

**284.** Nadir Shah's sack of Delhi in 1739 was a catastrophic event for the:
(A) Delhi Sultanate
(B) Mughal Empire
(C) Lodi Dynasty
(D) Maratha Empire

**285.** Shahjahan's reign is often considered the golden age of Mughal architecture, but it also saw continuous conflict, particularly in the:
(A) Northeast
(B) Punjab
(C) Deccan
(D) Gujarat

**286.** The primary point of contention between the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms was the control over:
(A) The Malabar Coast
(B) The city of Madurai
(C) The diamond mines of Panna
(D) The Raichur Doab

**287.** The Maratha empire's expansionist policy was most vigorously pursued by which Peshwa?
(A) Baji Rao I
(B) Balaji Vishwanath
(C) Balaji Baji Rao
(D) Madhavrao

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(C) A customs duty on imported goods.
(D) Tax on non-Muslim subjects for protection.

**261.** The ruler of Kashmir who is documented to have defeated the Arab invaders was:
(A) Avantivarman
(B) Didda
(C) Lalitaditya
(D) Zain-ul-Abidin

**262.** Timur invaded India during the reign of the:
(A) Khalji dynasty
(B) Tughlaq dynasty
(C) Saiyad dynasty
(D) Lodi dynasty

**263.** Babur's victory at the Battle of Khanwa was against:
(A) Ibrahim Lodi
(B) Nusrat Shah
(C) Medini Rai
(D) Rana Sanga

**264.** The Sikh resistance against the Mughals became an armed conflict after the martyrdom of:
(A) Guru Arjan Dev
(B) Guru Nanak
(C) Guru Angad
(D) Guru Ram Das

**265.** The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms were two of the most prominent regional powers that emerged after the decline of:
(A) The Mauryan Empire
(B) The Gupta Empire
(C) The Delhi Sultanate (Tughlaq dynasty)
(D) The Mughal Empire

**266.** The Maratha Empire reached its peak of expansion under the:
(A) Peshwas
(B) Chhatrapatis
(C) Holkars
(D) Scindias

**267.** A key aspect of the Turkish administration in the Delhi Sultanate was the 'Ikta', which was:
(A) A hereditary land grant
(B) A military rank
(C) A type of tax
(D) A system of revenue assignments

**268.** The administrative system of the Vijayanagara empire is well-known for its:
(A) Mansabdari system
(B) Ayagar and Nayankara systems
(C) Ikta system
(D) Zabt system

**269.** The 'Zat' rank in the Mansabdari system determined:
(A) The number of soldiers the mansabdar had to maintain.
(B) The specific province where the mansabdar would serve.
(C) The status and salary of the mansabdar.
(D) The religious duties of the mansabdar.

**270.** The concept of 'Jouhar' and 'Saka' is associated with the historical traditions of the:
(A) Marathas
(B) Jats
(C) Sikhs
(D) Rajputs

**271.** Who was the king of the Guhil dynasty that offered strong resistance to the early Arab invasions?
(A) Bappa Rawal
(B) Rana Sanga
(C) Maharana Pratap
(D) Rana Kumbha

**272.** Muhammad bin Qasim's invasion targeted which Indian king?
(A) Prithviraj Chauhan
(B) Dahir
(C) Jaichand
(D) Anandapala

**273.** The primary difference in the objectives of Mahmud of Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori in India was that:
(A) Ghazni wanted to spread Islam, while Ghori wanted wealth.
(B) Ghori sought empire while Ghazni sought plunder.
(C) Ghazni was a Turk, while Ghori was an Arab.
(D) Ghori invaded from the south, while Ghazni invaded from the northwest.

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# ANSWERS

1. (B) A tax levied on non-Muslims for protection.
Jaziya was a religious tax imposed on non-Muslim subjects, known as dhimmis, living in an Islamic state. It was collected as a fee for the protection provided by the state and for exemption from military service. In medieval India, several rulers, including the Sultans and Mughals like Aurangzeb, implemented this tax as a key fiscal and religious policy.

2. (C) Both Statement I and Statement II
The Mansabdari system was a unique administrative structure introduced by the Mughal Emperor Akbar. It combined civil and military services into a single framework. A mansab determined the status, salary, and the specific number of armed cavalrymen the holder was required to maintain. It was instrumental in organizing the nobility and ensuring the efficient mobilization of the imperial army.

3. (C) The Ikta was a hereditary right from its inception.
The Ikta system was a land revenue assignment given to officials, called Iqtadars, in lieu of a cash salary during the Delhi Sultanate. Initially, these assignments were not hereditary and were transferable to prevent the local concentration of power. The Iqtadar was responsible for administration, maintaining troops, and collecting taxes within their assigned territory to support the central government.

4. (D) A principle of universal peace and tolerance among all religions.
Sulah-i-kul was a cornerstone of Akbar's religious policy, translating to universal peace or absolute tolerance. It aimed to create harmony among the diverse religious and cultural groups within the Mughal Empire. By promoting mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, Akbar sought to unify his realm and reduce sectarian conflicts, thereby strengthening the social and political fabric of his vast empire.

5. (C) A financial instrument used as a bill of exchange.
A Hundi was a sophisticated financial instrument used extensively in medieval India for trade and credit transactions. It functioned as a bill of exchange, allowing merchants to transfer money across distances without the risk of carrying physical cash. This system facilitated long-distance trade by providing a reliable mechanism for credit and payment, supported by a network of indigenous bankers.

6. (B) Amaram - A tax on agricultural produce in the Sultanate
In the administrative framework of the Vijayanagara Empire, Amaram referred to land grants assigned to military commanders known as Nayakas. These commanders were permitted to collect revenue from these lands to maintain a specified number of troops for the king's service. This system was distinct from the agricultural tax structures found in the contemporaneous Delhi Sultanate or the Mughal administration.

7. (D) Mass self-immolation to avoid capture.
Jouhar was a traditional practice among Rajput women to protect their honor and avoid capture, enslavement, or dishonor by invading forces. It involved mass self-immolation when defeat was imminent for their male counterparts on the battlefield. This act was often followed by Saka, where the men fought to the death, representing a profound commitment to valor and family dignity.

8. (D) A is false but R is true.
Muhammad bin Qasim's invasion in the early eighth century succeeded in establishing Arab control over Sindh and Multan. However, this rule did not expand to the entire Indian subcontinent. Powerful Indian dynasties, such as the Gurjara-Pratiharas and the rulers of Kashmir, provided strong resistance. Their defensive efforts effectively halted the eastward and northward expansion of the Arab forces beyond Sindh.

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**27.** (D) Khalji Dynasty - Jalal-ud-din Khalji
The Delhi Sultanate comprised five major dynasties, each established by different founders. Jalal-ud-din Khalji founded the Khalji Dynasty by overthrowing the Mamluk rulers. Conversely, the Tughlaq Dynasty was founded by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, the Saiyads by Khizr Khan, and the Lodi Dynasty by Bahlul Lodi. These shifts in leadership often reflected changes in ethnic dominance among the Turkish and Afghan nobility.

**28.** (B) To protect political independence and culture.
The persistent resistance offered by Rajput rulers against the Delhi Sultanate was primarily driven by their desire to safeguard their political sovereignty and cultural heritage. They fought to maintain control over their ancestral territories and resisted the imposition of foreign administrative and religious systems. This long-standing conflict shaped the political landscape of Northern and Western India throughout the entire medieval period.

**29.** (C) Afghan
The Lodi Dynasty, which ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1451 to 1526 AD, was of Afghan origin. This marked a departure from the previous dynasties, which were primarily of Turkic descent. The Lodi rulers, starting with Bahlul Lodi, introduced a more decentralized form of governance that reflected Afghan tribal traditions, emphasizing the equality of the sultan among his noble peers.

**30.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Each dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate is associated with key figures who shaped its history. Iltutmish was the prominent consolidator of the Slave Dynasty. Alauddin Khalji represents the peak of Khalji power through his conquests and reforms. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq founded the Tughlaq Dynasty, while Sikandar Lodi was a significant ruler of the Lodi Dynasty, known for founding the city of Agra.

**31.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Muhammad bin Tughlaq's transfer of the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad in 1327 AD was a strategic disaster. While intended to provide a central location for governing the Deccan, the forced migration of the entire population caused immense suffering and loss of life. The resulting power vacuum in the north and the logistical difficulties eventually forced the Sultan to abandon the project.

**32.** (B) Babur and Ibrahim Lodi
The First Battle of Panipat, fought in April 1526, was a watershed event in Indian history. It took place between Babur, the ruler of Kabul, and Ibrahim Lodi, the last Sultan of Delhi. Babur's superior military tactics and the effective use of gunpowder and artillery led to a decisive victory, resulting in the end of the Lodi Dynasty and the Mughals.

**33.** (B) The Battle of Chanderi consolidated power against Medini Rai.
Babur's military campaigns in India were a series of strategic victories. The Battle of Chanderi in 1528 was fought against Medini Rai, a key Rajput ally of Rana Sanga, further consolidating Mughal control. Earlier, the Battle of Khanwa in 1527 was fought against the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga, while the Battle of Ghaghara in 1529 targeted eastern Afghan forces.

**34.** (A) Muhammad Shah 'Rangila'
The invasion of the Persian ruler Nadir Shah in 1739 occurred during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah, often called 'Rangila'. The invasion resulted in the defeat of the Mughal army at Karnal, the sack of Delhi, and the loss of immense wealth, including the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor diamond. This event exposed the irreversible weakness of the empire.

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**35.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Sher Shah Suri was a brilliant Afghan leader who rose from a noble background to establish the Sur Empire. He decisively defeated Humayun in the battles of Chausa and Kannauj, forcing the Mughal emperor into exile. Sher Shah is best remembered for his remarkable administrative and land revenue reforms, which provided a durable foundation that was later adopted by the Mughal Emperor Akbar.

**36.** (D) The Marathas
The Third Battle of Panipat, fought in 1761, was a major conflict between the invading Afghan forces of Ahmad Shah Abdali and the Maratha Empire. The Marathas, who had expanded their influence

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**18.** (A) 1, 2, 4, 3
Historical invasions of India followed a distinct timeline. The Arab invasion under Muhammad bin Qasim occurred in 712 AD. Mahmud of Ghazni's raids began around 1000 AD. The Battle of Tarain involving Muhammad Ghori took place in 1191 AD, marking a shift toward permanent rule. Much later, Timur's devastating invasion of Delhi occurred in 1398 AD during the Tughlaq period.

**19.** (C) Bappa Rawal
Bappa Rawal, the legendary founder of the Guhil dynasty of Mewar, is credited with leading a coalition of Indian rulers to defeat Arab invaders in the eighth century. His military success played a vital role in checking the eastward advance of the Arabs from Sindh. Rawal's leadership preserved the independence of several regional kingdoms and established a legacy of Rajput resistance.

**20.** (D) A hereditary official in charge of a district (pargana).
In the administrative systems of the Deccan and Maharashtra, a Deshmukh was a hereditary officer responsible for a district or pargana. They acted as intermediaries between the state and the village communities, overseeing revenue collection and maintaining law and order. This position was influential, as Deshmukhs held significant land and exercised social authority within their respective jurisdictions over several centuries.

**21.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Mahmud of Ghazni's repeated invasions significantly destabilized the political structures of Northern India. By focusing on the systematic plunder of wealth and the destruction of religious and administrative centers, his raids crippled the economic power of regional kingdoms. This created a lasting power vacuum and fostered internal divisions among Indian rulers, which eventually facilitated the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.

**22.** (B) Raja Suheldeva
Raja Suheldeva, a semi-legendary king from the Shravasti region, is celebrated for his decisive victory over Ghaznavid forces. Historical traditions record that he defeated and killed Salar Masud, a general and nephew of Mahmud of Ghazni, during the Battle of Bahraich. This victory halted the advance of the Ghaznavid armies into the Gangetic plains for several decades, preserving regional autonomy.

**23.** (D) The Mongols succeeded in permanently capturing and holding Delhi.
Throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the Delhi Sultanate faced persistent threats from Mongol invasions. Rulers like Iltutmish, Balban, and Alauddin Khalji implemented rigorous defensive measures, including fortifying frontiers and maintaining large standing armies. Despite several large-scale raids that reached the outskirts of Delhi, the Mongols never succeeded in permanently capturing or governing the capital of the Sultanate.

**24.** (A) 1 and 2 only
The Slave Dynasty, or Mamluk Dynasty, was the first to rule the Delhi Sultanate. It was founded by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, and later consolidated by Iltutmish, who established Delhi as the permanent capital. While some prominent rulers had been slaves earlier in their careers, the term 'Mamluk' refers specifically to the status of being a slave-soldier who eventually rose to power.

**25.** (C) The Tughlaqs
Timur, the Central Asian conqueror, invaded India in 1398 AD during the reign of Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah Tughlaq. The invasion resulted in the sack of Delhi and the massacre of its population, causing immense destruction. This event dealt a fatal blow to the Tughlaq Dynasty, leading to its rapid decline and paving the way for the emergence of regional powers.

**26.** (A) Alauddin Khalji
Alauddin Khalji is renowned for implementing radical market control and price regulation policies in the Delhi Sultanate. To maintain a large standing army without overstretching the treasury, he fixed the prices of essential commodities, including grain, cloth, and livestock. His administration used strict surveillance and harsh punishments to ensure compliance, effectively stabilizing the urban economy during his reign over northern India.

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and contributed significantly to the gradual weakening of the Mughal central administration.

**81.** (B) Sikandar Suri
When the Mughal Emperor Humayun returned to India in 1555 to reclaim his lost throne, the Sur Empire was in a state of disintegration due to internal successional conflicts. Humayun's forces defeated Sikandar Suri, the last major ruler of the Suri dynasty, at the Battle of Sirhind. This victory allowed Humayun to reoccupy Delhi and Agra, effectively ending Suri rule and restoring the Mughal dynasty in India.

**82.** (A) A community of peasants and artisans with a religious character.
The Satnami rebellion of 1672 was a significant uprising against Aurangzeb's rule. The Satnamis were a religious sect composed primarily of peasants and artisans, known for their strict adherence to truth and egalitarian principles. Their revolt, centered in Narnaul, was sparked by a dispute with a local revenue official and quickly escalated into a major challenge that required the deployment of the Mughal imperial army to suppress.

**83.** (C) Battle of Sirhind
The Battle of Sirhind in 1555 was the decisive engagement that marked the restoration of the Mughal Empire. Humayun's forces, led by his general Bairam Khan, defeated the army of Sikandar Suri. This victory enabled the Mughals to regain control over the heartland of Northern India, including Delhi and Agra, thereby ending the short-lived Suri Dynasty and paving the way for the subsequent long-term Mughal rule under Akbar.

**84.** (A) 1 and 2 only
The decline of the Tughlaq Dynasty in the mid-fourteenth century led to the emergence of powerful regional kingdoms. The Vijayanagara Empire was founded by the brothers Harihara and Bukka, while the Bahmani Kingdom was established by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah. Although the Bahmani kingdom later saw a rise in Shia influence, it was not initially established as a Shia state, but rather as a Sunni sultanate in the Deccan.

**85.** (C) Balaji Vishwanath
Balaji Vishwanath is often regarded as the "second founder of the Maratha state" due to his instrumental role in reviving Maratha power in the early eighteenth century. After the long conflict with Aurangzeb and internal civil war, he successfully united the Maratha factions and negotiated the Chauth and Sardeshmukhi rights from the Mughal emperor. His leadership transformed the Peshwaship into a hereditary and supreme administrative office.

**86.** (A) 3, 1, 2, 4
The Delhi Sultanate consisted of five successive dynasties. The Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty ruled first (1206-1290), followed by the Khaljis (1290-1320). The Tughlaq Dynasty then took power (1320-1414), followed by the briefly ruling Saiyad Dynasty. The Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526) was the final dynasty to govern the Sultanate before being overthrown by the Mughals at the First Battle of Panipat.

**87.** (D) Muqti or Wali
In the provincial administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the highest officer was known as the Muqti or Wali. These officials were assigned specific territories (Iktas) where they were responsible for maintaining military forces, upholding law and order, and collecting revenue. They served as the primary representatives of the Sultan's authority in the provinces, ensuring that regional administration aligned with the needs and policies of the central government.

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**88.** (A) Athavana
In the administrative structure of the Vijayanagara Empire, the Athavana was the central department responsible for land revenue management. Land revenue was the primary source of income for the state, and this department oversaw the assessment and collection of taxes across the empire's vast territories. The efficiency of the Athavana was critical in supporting the empire's large military forces and its extensive patronage of religious and cultural institutions.

**89.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
The Mughal central administration was divided into specialized departments led by specific officials. The Mir Bakshi was the head of the military department, while the Khan-i-Saman

across North India, faced a crushing defeat. This battle significantly weakened Maratha power and halted their northern expansion, creating a political environment that eventually facilitated the rise of British colonial influence.

**37.** (C) The threat from the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga.
The Battle of Khanwa in 1527 was triggered by the significant threat posed by the Rajput confederacy under Rana Sanga of Mewar. Following his victory at Panipat, Babur sought to consolidate his rule over North India. The Rajputs, viewing the Mughals as foreign invaders, united to challenge Babur's presence, making this battle a decisive struggle for the control of northern India.

**38.** (B) Rana Udai Singh
During Akbar's siege of Chittorgarh in 1567-68, the Rana of Mewar was Udai Singh II. While the Rana himself retreated to the hills for safety, the defense of the fort was led by valiant commanders like Jaimal and Patta. The fall of Chittorgarh was a significant event that underscored the Mughal policy of military expansion and the persistent resistance of the Rajputs.

**39.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga was a powerful tribal state in central India during the sixteenth century. Rani Durgavati, acting as regent for her minor son, led a heroic defense against the Mughal invasion commanded by Asaf Khan in 1564. Despite her valiant efforts and military skill, the Gond forces were eventually overwhelmed, leading to the annexation of their prosperous territory.

**40.** (A) The Bahmanis
Aurangzeb's reign was marked by numerous rebellions from various groups resisting his administrative and religious policies. The Jats of the Mathura region, the Sikhs in the Punjab, and the Satnamis in Narnaul all launched significant armed uprisings against Mughal authority. However, the Bahmanis were a dynasty that had already disintegrated into the five Deccan Sultanates long before Aurangzeb ascended the throne.

**41.** (B) 4, 2, 1, 3
The principal Mughal emperors followed a clear chronological succession. Akbar ruled from 1556 to 1605, followed by his son Jahangir, who reigned until 1627. Shah Jahan then occupied the throne from 1628 until his deposition in 1658. Finally, Aurangzeb reigned from 1658 until his death in 1707. This period represents the era of the Great Mughals at their political and cultural height.

**42.** (A) Guru Tegh Bahadur
Sikh resistance against the Mughal Empire intensified dramatically following the execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur by Aurangzeb in 1675. The Guru had stood against the forced religious conversions and policies of the state. This event led his successor, Guru Gobind Singh, to transform the Sikh community into a militarized body called the Khalsa, fundamentally changing the nature of their struggle against the Mughals.

**43.** (D) Tungabhadra
The Vijayanagara Empire was established in 1336 on the southern banks of the Tungabhadra River. Its capital, Vijayanagara (modern-day Hampi), was strategically located in a rugged, hilly terrain that provided natural protection. The river served as a vital resource for irrigation and defense, supporting the growth of one of the most powerful and wealthy empires in the history of medieval South India.

**44.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The persistent conflict between the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms was primarily driven by the desire to control the Raichur Doab. This fertile region, situated between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, was economically valuable due to its agricultural productivity and strategic location. The struggle for this territory, along with control over sea ports, defined the geopolitical rivalry in the Deccan for nearly two centuries.

**45.** (C) Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah
The Bahmani Kingdom was founded in 1347 by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah, also known as Zafar Khan. He led a successful revolt against the authority of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, establishing the first major independent Muslim state in the Deccan. Under his leadership and that of his successors, the kingdom became a

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**9.** (C) A subordinate feudal lord holding a territory.
Polygars, or Palaiyakkarars, were a class of territorial administrative and military governors appointed by South Indian rulers, particularly during the Vijayanagara period. They held specific territories and were responsible for local administration, tax collection, and providing military support to the sovereign. Over time, they became influential local chieftains, occasionally resisting centralized authority during the transition to British colonial rule.

**10.** (A) A group of villages forming an administrative unit.
In the administrative hierarchy of medieval South India, particularly during the Chola and Vijayanagara periods, the Nadu was a crucial territorial unit. It consisted of a cluster of villages and functioned as a hub for local governance, revenue assessment, and judicial administration. These units were governed by local assemblies that managed irrigation, temple affairs, and other community-level administrative responsibilities.

**11.** (A) 1 and 2 only
The Jagir and Ikta systems were vital land revenue mechanisms in medieval India. The Ikta system, established during the Delhi Sultanate, assigned revenue from specific lands to officials for their service. This evolved into the Mughal Jagir system, where officials received revenue rights instead of cash. Neither system traditionally granted permanent land ownership, as assignments were usually transferable and non-hereditary.

**12.** (B) King Dahir
King Dahir was the final Hindu ruler of the Brahman dynasty in Sindh. In 712 AD, he faced the invasion of Muhammad bin Qasim, representing the Umayyad Caliphate. His defeat at the Battle of Aror marked the beginning of Arab rule in the region. Dahir is remembered for his courageous but unsuccessful resistance against the first major Islamic expansion into India.

**13.** (C) Final charge of warriors when defeat was certain.
Saka was a significant ritual of valor performed by Rajput warriors during desperate military situations. When facing inevitable defeat, the men would don saffron robes and charge into the battlefield to fight until their last breath. This act of ultimate sacrifice ensured they died as heroes rather than being captured. It was typically performed in conjunction with the female ritual of Jouhar.

**14.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
The administrative and financial terms of medieval India represent diverse systems. Chauth was a Maratha tax, while the Deshmukh served as a hereditary district officer. The Hundi functioned as a traditional bill of exchange used by merchants for secure transactions. Finally, Amaram was a specific land tenure system under the Vijayanagara Empire, where land was granted for military service.

**15.** (A) The Pallavas of Kanchi
Following the Arab conquest of Sindh, their further expansion into the Indian heartland was obstructed by several powerful regional dynasties. The Gurjara-Pratiharas of Western India, the Chalukyas of Badami in the Deccan, and King Lalitaditya of Kashmir were instrumental in defeating Arab forces. However, the Pallavas of Kanchi, situated further south, were not directly involved in these specific northern defensive coalitions.

**16.** (B) To plunder the wealth of Indian temples and cities.
Mahmud of Ghazni conducted seventeen raids into India during the early eleventh century. His primary objective was to acquire the vast riches stored in Indian temples and prosperous cities to fund his campaigns and maintain his empire in Central Asia. Unlike later invaders, his focus was on plunder and the acquisition of resources rather than permanent territorial annexation or religious conversion.

**17.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Amaram tenure was a central feature of the Vijayanagara administrative and military organization. Under this system, the king granted land to military commanders, known as Amaranayakas, in exchange for military service and the maintenance of troops. These commanders were also obligated to pay a portion of the revenue as an annual tribute to the royal treasury, ensuring centralized fiscal control.

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overseeing the collection of revenue. This structured hierarchy ensured that the central government maintained direct control over local affairs, contributing to the overall stability and efficiency of his reign.

**55.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Nayankara system was a fundamental aspect of Vijayanagara administration. Under this system, the king granted land known as 'Amaram' to military chiefs, or Nayakas, in exchange for their military service and the maintenance of a specified number of troops. This arrangement mirrored the Ikta system of the Delhi Sultanate, serving as a primary means of mobilizing military forces and managing provincial administration.

**56.** (A) Military affairs
In the administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the 'Diwan-i-Arz' was the department responsible for military affairs. It was headed by the Ariz-i-Mumalik, who was tasked with the recruitment, training, and payment of the soldiers. This department also oversaw the maintenance of the royal stables and the inspection of troops, playing a critical role in ensuring the sultanate's military readiness and internal stability.

**57.** (C) Diwan-i-Ala or Wazir
Under the Mughal administrative system, the Diwan-i-Ala, also known as the Wazir, was the head of the revenue and finance department. This official was responsible for managing the empire's fiscal policies, overseeing revenue collection, and maintaining the central treasury. The Diwan-i-Ala held a position of immense importance, often serving as the primary advisor to the emperor on all economic and administrative matters.

**58.** (A) Sachiv - Commander-in-Chief
Shivaji's Ashtapradhan council assigned specific roles to each of its eight ministers. The Peshwa served as the Prime Minister, the Amatya handled finance, and the Sumant was in charge of foreign affairs. However, the Sachiv was responsible for royal correspondence and official documents, while the title of Commander-in-Chief was held by the Senapati (or Sar-i-Naubat), who managed the Maratha military forces.

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**59.** (D) To head the revenue and finance department.
In both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire, the 'Wazir' held a central administrative role as the head of the revenue and finance department. This official was tasked with the oversight of tax collection, the management of state expenditures, and the overall financial stability of the realm. The Wazir's influence extended across various branches of government, making the position one of the most powerful.

**60.** (A) 4, 1, 3, 2
The career of Shivaji was marked by several pivotal events. The encounter with Afzal Khan occurred in 1659, followed by the first sacking of Surat in 1664. These successes led to the Treaty of Purandar with Jai Singh in 1665, which forced Shivaji to surrender many forts. Finally, his formal coronation at Raigad took place in 1674, marking his status as a sovereign ruler.

**61.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Medieval Indian administration saw significant continuity and innovation. The Turks introduced the Ikta system, which later influenced the Mughal Jagir system. Sher Shah Suri implemented sophisticated land revenue reforms based on measurement, which Akbar subsequently refined and expanded. Similarly, Shivaji adopted a revenue system that emphasized the direct measurement of land and a fixed state share, ensuring a more systematic collection of agricultural taxes.

**62.** (D) The invasion of Muhammad bin Qasim
King Dahir, the last Hindu ruler of Sindh, is remembered for his valiant defense against the Arab invasion led by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 AD. His death on the battlefield during the Battle of Aror marked the end of indigenous rule in Sindh and the beginning of the first major Islamic administrative presence in the Indian subcontinent. His sacrifice is a significant historical event.

**63.** (A) Lalitaditya Muktapida
King Lalitaditya Muktapida of the Karkota dynasty of Kashmir is renowned for his military conquests and his role in resisting Arab expansion. In the eighth century, he successfully defeated Arab forces, halting their northward advance from Sindh into the Himalayan regions. His

reign represented the peak of Kashmiri power, as he established a vast empire and patronized significant architectural projects, including the Martand Sun Temple.

**64.** (B) Claim of sovereignty and protection from raids.
Chauth was a major tax collected by the Maratha Empire, consisting of one-fourth of the land revenue of a territory. It was primarily levied on neighboring regions not directly under Maratha rule. In exchange for this payment, the Marathas provided protection against third-party invasions and guaranteed that their own forces would not raid the territory, effectively serving as a claim of regional sovereignty.

**65.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Akbar's 'Sulah-i-kul' policy of universal peace was instrumental in consolidating the Mughal Empire. By fostering religious tolerance and social harmony, he secured the loyalty and cooperation of various communities, especially the powerful Rajput chiefs. This inclusive approach reduced internal resistance and provided a stable foundation for his long and prosperous reign, allowing the empire to expand and flourish both culturally and politically.

**66.** (A) Resisting the advance of the Arabs from Sindh into the Indian heartland.
The Gurjara-Pratiharas were a dominant power in Northern India during the early medieval period. They played a crucial role as a "bulwark" against Arab expansion, successfully repelling several invasions launched from Sindh in the eighth and ninth centuries. Their military strength preserved the territorial integrity of mainland India and allowed for the continued development of regional art, architecture, and socio-political systems.

**67.** (C) 'Jouhar' was female self-immolation and 'Saka' was the final charge.
In Rajput tradition, 'Jouhar' and 'Saka' were twin rituals of ultimate sacrifice performed when facing certain defeat. 'Jouhar' involved mass self-immolation by women to protect their honor from invaders. Following this, the men would perform 'Saka', the final, suicidal charge into the battlefield to fight to the death. Together, these practices symbolized the extreme commitment to honor and independence within Rajput society.

**68.** (D) Sindh
The invasions led by Ubedulla and Budel were early, unsuccessful Arab attempts to conquer Sindh during the late seventh and early eighth centuries. These expeditions were ordered by the Umayyad governors of Iraq to expand Islamic influence eastward. It was not until the subsequent invasion led by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 AD that the Arabs finally succeeded in establishing a permanent rule over the region.

**69.** (C) It was a purely military system with no civil functions.
The Mansabdari system, introduced by Akbar, was the framework for the entire Mughal bureaucracy. While it had a military character, it was not restricted to the army; all civil officers were also assigned a mansab rank. This integrated system determined the status, salary, and obligations of every official, ensuring that all administrators were part of a unified hierarchy that served the needs of the empire.

**70.** (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Key historical figures in early medieval India are associated with different regions and events. Bappa Rawal of the Guhil dynasty famously resisted Arab invasions in Mewar. Lalitaditya of Kashmir was instrumental in checking Arab expansion from the north. Dahir was the king of Sindh during the Arab conquest in 712 AD, and Raja Suheldeva is celebrated for defeating the Ghaznavid forces in northern India.

**71.** (D) Jagir was transferable, while Watan Jagir was hereditary.
In the Mughal administrative system, a 'Jagir' was a revenue assignment given to officials in lieu of a cash salary, and it was typically transferable to prevent local power bases. In contrast, a 'Watan Jagir' was a permanent and hereditary land grant, usually given to regional chieftains like the Rajputs. These hereditary grants recognized their ancestral rights while integrating them into the Mughal imperial structure.

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**72.** (A) Establishing a permanent Islamic empire in India.
Muhammad Ghori's primary objective in his Indian invasions was fundamentally different from the raiding policy of Mahmud of Ghazni. While Ghazni focused on plundering wealth to support his Central Asian realm, Ghori aimed to establish a lasting territorial empire in India. His victories, particularly at the Second Battle of Tarain, laid the groundwork for the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate by his successors.

**73.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The Chalukyas of Badami were a formidable power that dominated the Deccan from the sixth to the eighth centuries. Under prominent rulers like Pulakeshin II, they expanded their influence and established a sophisticated administrative system. They were also one of the key Indian dynasties that resisted early Arab incursions into southern India, playing a vital role in maintaining the political stability and cultural heritage of the region.

**74.** (A) The Ikta system
The Amaram system of the Vijayanagara Empire bore a strong resemblance to the Ikta system of the Delhi Sultanate. In both cases, the central authority granted land revenue rights to military officials in exchange for their service and the maintenance of troops. These systems were essential for managing large armies and decentralized local administration, though the degree of hereditary rights varied over time in both regions.

**75.** (D) Portion or share
The term 'Ikta' is derived from Arabic and literally means a portion or a share. In the context of the Delhi Sultanate, it referred to the assignment of land revenue from a specific territory to an officer for his services. This system allowed the sultanate to manage its vast territories and support its military officials without the need for large cash disbursements from the central treasury.

**76.** (B) Tughlaq Dynasty
Timur's invasion in 1398 AD caused massive destruction and led to the collapse of the Tughlaq Dynasty's authority in Delhi. The resulting chaos and power vacuum allowed Khizr Khan, a former governor under Timur, to seize power and establish the Saiyad Dynasty in 1414. This transition marked a period of relative weakness for the Delhi Sultanate, with its control largely restricted to the surrounding regions of Delhi.

**77.** (A) Only Statement I is correct.
The Saiyad Dynasty, which ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1414 to 1451 AD, was characterized by a significant reduction in imperial authority. Their rule was largely confined to Delhi and its immediate vicinity, as many provincial governors asserted their independence following Timur's invasion. Unlike the previous major dynasties, the Saiyads lacked the military strength and resources to maintain a large, centralized empire across the Indian subcontinent.

**78.** (D) It crushed the final eastern Afghan resistance to Babur.
The Battle of Ghaghara, fought in 1529 near the confluence of the Ganges and Ghaghara rivers, was a significant victory for Babur. It resulted in the defeat of the eastern Afghan confederacy led by Mahmud Lodi and supported by the Sultan of Bengal. This victory eliminated the last major organized opposition to Babur's rule in Northern India, securing the foundation of the Mughal Empire shortly before his death.

**79.** (A) The area around Delhi, Mathura, and Agra
The Jat resistance against the Mughal Empire, which intensified during the reign of Aurangzeb, was primarily concentrated in the agrarian regions surrounding Delhi, Mathura, and Agra. The Jats, a community of prosperous peasants, rose in rebellion due to high land revenue demands and the state's religious policies. Their uprisings caused significant disruption to imperial communication and trade routes, posing a persistent challenge to Mughal central authority.

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**80.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Aurangzeb's reign was marked by multiple rebellions from groups such as the Jats, Sikhs, and Satnamis. These uprisings were largely driven by a combination of economic grievances, such as high land revenue assessments, and resentment toward the emperor's orthodox religious policies, including the reimposition of Jaziya. These internal conflicts drained imperial resources

significant cultural and political power until its eventual disintegration in the late fifteenth century.

**46.** (D) Rivalry between Deccani and Afaqi (foreign) nobles.
The disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom was primarily caused by the deep-seated factional rivalry between the Deccani nobles and the Afaqis, who were nobles of foreign origin. This internal conflict weakened the central authority, leading to political instability and the execution of the influential prime minister Mahmud Gawan. Consequently, the kingdom fractured into five independent sultanates: Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar, Bidar, and Berar.

**47.** (A) The Vijayanagara Empire
The Battle of Talikota in 1565 was a decisive turning point that led to the catastrophic decline of the Vijayanagara Empire. A coalition of the Deccan Sultanates, including Bijapur, Ahmednagar, and Golconda, defeated the Vijayanagara army led by Rama Raya. The subsequent sack of the capital city, Hampi, effectively ended the empire's dominance in South India, although regional successor states continued to exist.

**48.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The rise of Maratha power was influenced by multiple factors. The rugged geography of the Western Ghats provided strategic defensive advantages. Socially, the Bhakti movement fostered a sense of cultural unity and egalitarianism. Furthermore, many Marathas gained invaluable administrative and military experience while serving in the Deccan Sultanates, which Shivaji later utilized to establish an independent and sovereign state of his own.

**49.** (B) Raigad
Shivaji's formal coronation took place at the fort of Raigad in June 1674. This historic event marked the official establishment of 'Hindvi Swaraj' and conferred upon him the title of 'Chhatrapati'. By declaring himself a sovereign monarch, Shivaji challenged the authority of the Mughal Empire and the Deccan Sultanates, asserting the independence and legitimacy of his newly formed Maratha state.

**50.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Babur's conquests in India involved several critical battles against diverse opponents. The First Battle of Panipat was fought against Ibrahim Lodi, while the Battle of Khanwa saw a struggle against the Rajput forces of Rana Sanga. In 1528, Babur defeated Medini Rai at the Battle of Chanderi. Finally, the Battle of Ghaghara in 1529 was fought against the Afghan forces led by Mahmud Lodi.

**51.** (C) Balaji Vishwanath
Balaji Vishwanath was the first Peshwa to transform the office into a significant, hereditary position of power. Appointed by Chhatrapati Shahu in 1713, he played a crucial role in stabilizing the Maratha state after a period of civil strife and Mughal conflict. His diplomatic skill and administrative reforms laid the groundwork for the subsequent expansion of the Maratha Empire under his son and grandson.

**52.** (D) Eight ministers
Shivaji's administrative system was centered around the 'Ashtapradhan', a council of eight ministers. Each minister was assigned specific portfolios, such as the Peshwa (Prime Minister), Amatya (Finance), and Sumant (Foreign Affairs), to assist the Chhatrapati in governance. Unlike later systems, these positions were not hereditary, and the ministers were directly responsible to the king, ensuring a highly centralized and efficient administrative structure.

**53.** (C) Warangal
Following the disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom, five successor states emerged: Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar, Bidar, and Berar. These sultanates, known collectively as the Deccan Sultanates, were established by former governors of the Bahmani realm. Warangal was a prominent Hindu kingdom under the Kakatiyas that had been conquered by the Delhi Sultanate much earlier and was not one of the Bahmani successor states.

**54.** (B) Shiqdar
In Sher Shah Suri's centralized administrative system, the 'pargana' was a vital local unit composed of several villages. The Shiqdar was the military officer responsible for the pargana, tasked with maintaining law and order and

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managed the imperial household and workshops. Religious and charitable matters were overseen by the Sadr-us-Sudur, and the Qazi-ul-Quzat served as the chief judicial officer of the empire, ensuring that the legal system functioned according to established Islamic and imperial principles.

**90.** (A) Sumant / Dabir
In Shivaji's Ashtapradhan council, the minister responsible for foreign affairs and diplomatic relations was known as the Sumant or Dabir. This official's duties included receiving foreign envoys, managing relationships with other regional powers like the Mughals and the Deccan Sultanates, and advising the Chhatrapati on matters of war and peace. The Sumant played a vital role in navigating the complex geopolitical landscape of seventeenth-century India.

**91.** (D) Measurement and assessment based on land fertility.
Sher Shah Suri's land revenue administration was highly innovative for its time. He introduced a system based on the systematic measurement of land using a standardized unit. Revenue was then assessed according to the fertility of the soil and the average yield of crops. This approach ensured a more equitable tax burden on the peasantry and provided the state with a predictable and reliable source of agricultural income.

**92.** (B) Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar, Bidar, and Berar
The disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries resulted in the formation of five independent Deccan Sultanates. These were the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur, the Qutb Shahi of Golconda, the Nizam Shahi of Ahmednagar, the Barid Shahi of Bidar, and the Imad Shahi of Berar. These regional powers dominated the politics and culture of the Deccan until their eventual annexation by the Mughal Empire.

**93.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Treaty of Purandar in 1665 was a significant strategic setback for Shivaji. Under pressure from the Mughal general Raja Jai Singh, Shivaji was forced to surrender twenty-three of his forts and a large portion of his territory. Additionally, he agreed to serve the Mughals and provide military support when required. This treaty temporarily curbed Maratha expansion and demonstrated the overwhelming military and diplomatic power of the Mughal Empire.

**94.** (D) A sovereign state free from external and foreign rule.
Shivaji's vision of 'Hindvi Swaraj' signified the establishment of a sovereign, independent state free from the dominance of foreign powers, particularly the Mughal Empire and the Deccan Sultanates. It was a call for self-rule and the protection of indigenous culture and traditions. Shivaji sought to create a just and efficient administration that prioritized the welfare of all his subjects, regardless of their religious or social background.

**95.** (A) Baji Rao I
Baji Rao I, the second hereditary Peshwa, was a brilliant military commander known for his aggressive expansionist policies. He championed the concept of "Hindu Pad Padshahi" to unite regional powers against Mughal influence. Under his leadership, Maratha armies conducted rapid campaigns across Northern and Central India, capturing Malwa, Gujarat, and Bundelkhand, which transformed the Maratha state from a regional power into a dominant pan-Indian empire.

**96.** (B) Southern India
The Polygar system was a prominent military and tenurial form of governance in Southern India, particularly in the Tamil and Telugu regions during the Vijayanagara and post-Vijayanagara periods. Polygars were local chieftains who were granted territories in exchange for providing military service and maintaining local order. They played a significant role in regional politics and were later known for their fierce resistance against the expansion of British colonial authority.

**97.** (B) Resisting the Arab invasions in the 8th century.
Bappa Rawal, a key figure in the history of the Guhil dynasty of Mewar, is celebrated for his successful resistance against Arab invasions in the early eighth century. According to tradition, he led a coalition of Indian rulers to defeat the Arab forces that had advanced from Sindh. His

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**131.** (C) Ghiyas-ud-din Balban
Ghiyas-ud-din Balban is considered the last effective and most powerful ruler of the Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty. He focused on consolidating the Sultanate's authority, strengthening the central army, and implementing a rigorous policy of 'blood and iron' to suppress internal rebellions and defend against Mongol threats. His reign restored the prestige of the monarchy and laid the foundation for the continued existence of the Delhi Sultanate before the rise of the Khaljis.

**132.** (D) Timur (Tamerlane)
Timur, the Central Asian conqueror also known as Tamerlane, invaded India and sacked the city of Delhi in 1398 AD. His invasion was characterized by immense destruction, the massacre of a large portion of the city's population, and the systematic looting of its wealth. This event caused the near-total collapse of the Tughlaq Dynasty's authority and left the Delhi Sultanate in a state of political and economic ruin for decades.

**133.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Tughlaq Dynasty represented both the zenith of the Delhi Sultanate's territorial extent and the beginning of its terminal decline. Under Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the empire spanned almost the entire Indian subcontinent. However, his controversial administrative experiments, such as the capital transfer and token currency, along with the subsequent weak leadership of his successors, led to widespread rebellions and the rapid disintegration of the Sultanate into various regional powers.

**134.** (B) Chausa and Kannauj
The Mughal Emperor Humayun lost his kingdom to the Afghan leader Sher Shah Suri after suffering consecutive and decisive defeats. The first major loss occurred at the Battle of Chausa in 1539, followed by an even more crushing defeat at the Battle of Kannauj (also known as the Battle of Bilgram) in 1540. These victories forced Humayun to flee into exile, allowing Sher Shah to establish the Suri Dynasty in Delhi.

**135.** (D) Rani Durgavati
The resistance of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga against the Mughal Empire was led by the courageous Queen Rani Durgavati. In 1564, she defended her realm against a large Mughal army commanded by Asaf Khan. Despite being outnumbered, she displayed remarkable military leadership on the battlefield. Her refusal to surrender and her subsequent sacrifice became a legendary symbol of resistance against the expansionist policies of the Mughal Emperor Akbar.

**136.** (A) Fighting to the death by male warriors.
In the context of Rajput warfare, 'Saka' refers to the ritual of fighting to the death by male warriors when defeat was certain. It was the final, desperate charge into the battlefield, where the soldiers donned saffron robes and vowed never to return alive. This act of extreme valor was usually preceded by the practice of 'Jouhar' by the women, together representing the ultimate sacrifice for honor and independence.

**137.** (C) Continuous support from Mughal emperors.
The rise of the Maratha Empire was driven by internal socio-cultural and geographical factors, rather than external support. The Bhakti movement unified the people, while the rugged terrain of the Western Ghats provided natural defense. Additionally, many Marathas gained military experience in the Deccan Sultanates. Far from supporting them, the Mughal emperors, particularly Aurangzeb, were the primary adversaries of the Marathas and spent decades trying to suppress their power.

**138.** (A) Baji Rao I
The office of the Peshwa became the supreme center of authority in the Maratha Empire under the leadership of Baji Rao I. Appointed in 1720, he transformed the Peshwa from a prime minister into the de facto ruler, while the Chhatrapati became a nominal figurehead. Baji Rao I's military genius and aggressive expansionist policies across Northern and Central India firmly established the Peshwas as the dominant political force in the Maratha state.

**139.** (C) 1 and 3 only
Shivaji's administrative system, the 'Ashtapradhan', consisted of eight ministers with the Peshwa serving as the head of the council. This system was designed to assist the king in governance, but the positions were not hereditary. Each minister was appointed based

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ruler Nadir Shah invaded India in 1739, dealing a major blow to the Mughal Empire during its period of decline.

**107.** (D) It successfully repelled the Bahmani kingdom in the Battle of Talikota.
The Vijayanagara Empire, founded by Harihara and Bukka, was a major center of South Indian culture and power. While it flourished for over two centuries, patronizing diverse literatures and magnificent architecture, it was ultimately defeated at the Battle of Talikota in 1565. This defeat was inflicted by a coalition of the Deccan Sultanates, not the Bahmani kingdom, which had fractured into multiple sultanates decades earlier.

**108.** (B) Strategic opportunities during Mughal and Deccan decline.
The rise of Maratha power under Shivaji was significantly facilitated by the political instability resulting from the decline of the Mughal Empire and the weakening of the Deccan Sultanates. Shivaji utilized his military genius and the rugged geography of Maharashtra to carve out an independent state. The power vacuum created by these waning empires provided the strategic opportunity for the Marathas to establish their own sovereign administration.

**109.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Peshwas were originally the prime ministers in Shivaji's Ashtapradhan council. However, during the reign of Chhatrapati Shahu, the office became the de facto center of power within the Maratha Empire. Starting with Balaji Vishwanath in 1713, the position of Peshwa became hereditary. This shift led to the Peshwas overseeing the empire's expansion and administration, while the Chhatrapatis remained as the nominal heads of the state.

**110.** (D) Provinces
In the Mughal administrative hierarchy, the 'subas' were the primary provincial divisions of the empire. Akbar initially divided the empire into twelve subas, a number that increased with subsequent conquests. Each suba was governed by a Subedar (Governor), who was responsible for military and executive functions, and a Diwan, who managed the revenue and judicial affairs, ensuring a system of checks and balances within provincial governance.

**111.** (A) South Indian kingdoms like Cholas and Vijayanagara
The 'Nadu' was a fundamental administrative unit in medieval South India, particularly prominent during the Chola and Vijayanagara periods. It consisted of a cluster of villages that shared common economic and social ties. These units were governed by local assemblies, known as Nattar, which played a crucial role in managing local affairs, including irrigation, land disputes, and the administration of temples within their respective territories.

**112.** (B) Akbar
The concept of 'Sulah-i-kul', meaning 'universal peace' or 'absolute tolerance', was a defining element of the Mughal Emperor Akbar's policy. He introduced this principle to integrate the diverse religious and ethnic groups within his empire. By promoting mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, Akbar sought to create a stable and inclusive state where religious differences did not lead to political conflict, thereby consolidating his authority across the vast Indian subcontinent.

**113.** (B) A poll-tax on non-Muslim subjects in an Islamic state.
Jaziya was a poll-tax levied on non-Muslim subjects, known as dhimmis, living under the rule of an Islamic state. It was collected in exchange for state protection and as a substitute for mandatory military service. In medieval India, several Muslim rulers imposed this tax at various times, though its enforcement varied depending on the political and religious orientation of the specific sultan or emperor.

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**114.** (A) Cheque or bill of exchange
A Hundi was a traditional financial instrument used in medieval India that functioned much like a modern-day cheque or bill of exchange. It allowed merchants to transfer funds securely over long distances without the need for physical transport of gold or silver coins. This system was supported by an extensive network of indigenous bankers (sarrafs), facilitating domestic and international trade through a reliable credit mechanism.

him leading a coalition of regional kings to defeat Arab forces that had advanced from Sindh. His military successes are seen as critical in preserving the independence of Rajput territories and establishing Mewar as a powerful center of resistance against foreign invasions during the early medieval period.

**148.** (D) Plundering wealth for his Central Asian empire.
Mahmud of Ghazni's multiple invasions of India were primarily motivated by the desire to plunder the vast riches of Indian temples and cities. He used this looted wealth to fund his ambitious military campaigns and patronize art and learning in his capital at Ghazni, in modern-day Afghanistan. While his raids caused immense destruction and had a religious undertone, his main priority was economic acquisition rather than the establishment of a permanent empire in India.

**149.** (C) Sher Shah Suri against Humayun.
The Battle of Chausa in 1539 was a pivotal victory for the Afghan leader Sher Shah Suri against the Mughal Emperor Humayun. Sher Shah's superior strategy and tactical surprise led to the near-total destruction of the Mughal army. This defeat severely weakened Humayun's position in India and was the first major step toward his eventual expulsion and the temporary establishment of the Sur Empire in Delhi and Northern India.

**150.** (A) 4, 1, 2, 3
Akbar's reign was marked by a series of significant events that defined his long rule. The Second Battle of Panipat took place in 1556, securing his throne. This was followed by the abolition of the Jaziya tax in 1564, reflecting his early inclusive policies. The major siege of Chittorgarh occurred in 1567-68. Later, in 1582, Akbar promulgated the Din-i-Ilahi, a syncretic belief system intended to unify his diverse subjects.

**151.** (D) Churaman and Badan Singh
The Jat rebellion against the Mughal Empire, particularly during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, was led by prominent figures such as Churaman and later, Badan Singh. These leaders organized the Jat peasantry in the region around Mathura, Agra, and Bharatpur to resist high revenue demands and Mughal administrative pressures. Under their leadership, the Jats established their own fortified strongholds and eventually carved out a semi-independent state, challenging central Mughal authority.

**152.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Shivaji's Ashtapradhan council consisted of eight ministers with distinct administrative responsibilities. The Amatya served as the finance minister, managing the state's accounts and revenue. The Sachiv was responsible for royal correspondence and official documents. The Senapati was the commander-in-chief of the army, overseeing military operations, while the Nyayadhish acted as the chief justice, presiding over the state's judicial system and interpreting laws.

**153.** (C) Diwan-i-Insha
In the administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the 'Diwan-i-Insha' was the department responsible for state correspondence and official communication. It was headed by the Dabir-i-Khas, who managed the drafting of royal decrees, letters to provincial governors, and correspondence with foreign rulers. This department played a vital role in maintaining the bureaucratic link between the central government and its various regional administrative units, ensuring the Sultan's orders were clearly communicated.

**154.** (A) A rank that determined a noble's salary and military obligations.
The 'Mansab' was the foundational element of the Mughal administrative and military system. It was a rank assigned to officials that determined their status in the imperial hierarchy, their personal salary, and the specific number of troops and horses they were required to maintain for the emperor's service. This system ensured a structured and loyal nobility that could be effectively mobilized for both civil administration and military campaigns throughout the empire.

**155.** (D) It was a non-hereditary revenue assignment.
The Ikta system was a key revenue-sharing mechanism in the Delhi Sultanate where the state assigned land revenue from specific territories to officials in lieu of a cash salary. Crucially, these assignments were non-hereditary and the holders,

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**123.** (D) Strong central bureaucracy and control.
Shivaji's administration was remarkable for its highly organized and centralized bureaucracy. He established the 'Ashtapradhan', a council of eight ministers who were directly responsible to him and held non-hereditary positions. Shivaji maintained strict control over his officials, discouraged the practice of granting land as salary (Jagirs), and implemented a systematic revenue collection process based on land measurement. This strong central control ensured efficiency, prevented local corruption, and prioritized the welfare of the peasantry.

**124.** (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Different administrative systems and terms are associated with specific medieval Indian kingdoms. The Ikta system was a core feature of the Delhi Sultanate's revenue management. The Mansab system defined the hierarchy and military obligations in the Mughal Empire. In the Vijayanagara Empire, the Amaram system was used for military land grants. Finally, the Ashtapradhan was the famous council of eight ministers that managed the administration under Shivaji's rule.

**125.** (C) It neutralized the Rajput confederacy.
The Battle of Khanwa in 1527 is often considered more significant than the First Battle of Panipat because it directly challenged the most powerful indigenous force of the time, the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga. While Panipat overthrew the already weakened Lodi Dynasty, Khanwa neutralized the unified Rajput threat to Mughal rule. Babur's victory ensured the survival and future expansion of the Mughal Empire in Northern India.

**126.** (D) Akbar ordered a general massacre of the fort's inhabitants.
Following the capture of the fort of Chittorgarh in 1568, Akbar ordered a general massacre of the thousands of inhabitants who had resisted the siege. This harsh action was intended to serve as a warning to other Rajput states that chose to oppose Mughal authority. The fall of the fort and the subsequent brutality marked a significant and somber chapter in the history of Mughal-Rajput relations during Akbar's reign.

**127.** (A) Economic and religious peasant grievances.
The Satnami revolt against Aurangzeb in 1672 was primarily a manifestation of economic and religious grievances among the peasantry and artisans. The Satnamis, a sect known for their egalitarian beliefs, rose in rebellion following an altercation with a local official over revenue collection. Their uprising reflected a broader discontent with high taxation and the state's orthodox religious policies, posing a serious challenge to Mughal authority in the Narnaul region.

**128.** (B) Defeat at the Battle of Talikota.
The most critical factor in the decline and eventual downfall of the Vijayanagara Empire was its crushing defeat at the Battle of Talikota in 1565. A coalition of the Deccan Sultanates decisively defeated the Vijayanagara army and subsequently sacked the capital city of Hampi. This event shattered the empire's central authority, led to massive loss of life and wealth, and permanently diminished its power and influence in Southern India.

**129.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Administration under the Turkish Sultans of Delhi was fundamentally military in character. Given the constant threats from internal rebellions by regional chiefs and external invasions, such as those by the Mongols, the maintenance of a powerful standing army was essential for the survival of the state. Consequently, the sultanate's administrative structures, including the Ikta system and various ministerial departments, were primarily designed to support military readiness and central control.

**130.** (A) Agriculture
The 'Diwan-i-kohi' was a specialized department established by the Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq to promote and improve agricultural production. Recognizing the importance of a stable revenue base, the department provided loans to farmers, encouraged the cultivation of better crops, and attempted to bring uncultivated land under use. Although the project faced many practical difficulties, it represented an early attempt by the state to directly manage and support the agricultural economy.

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military prowess secured the independence of the Rajput states and established Mewar as a major center of resistance against foreign incursions.

**98.** (A) The fortress of Tabarhinda (Bhatinda)
The primary conflict between Muhammad Ghori and Prithviraj Chauhan, which led to the Battles of Tarain, was sparked by the capture of the strategic fortress of Tabarhinda (modern-day Bhatinda) by Ghori's forces. This fort was a vital gateway into the heartland of Northern India. Prithviraj's attempt to reclaim this territory resulted in the first battle in 1191, marking a decisive moment in the struggle for regional supremacy.

**99.** (C) Land reserved directly for the imperial treasury.
In both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal administration, 'Khalisa' land referred to territories that were managed directly by the central government. The revenue generated from these lands was reserved exclusively for the imperial treasury to fund the ruler's household, the central army, and other state expenses. Unlike Jagir or Ikta lands, which were assigned to officials, Khalisa lands provided the monarch with a direct and independent source of income.

**100.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Although Sher Shah Suri's reign lasted only five years, his administrative reforms were profoundly significant. He introduced a highly efficient land revenue system based on land measurement and soil classification, and established a well-organized hierarchy of local officials. These innovations were so effective that the Mughal Emperor Akbar later adopted and refined many of them, making Sher Shah's administrative legacy a cornerstone of the subsequent Mughal governance.

**101.** (C) Muhammad bin Qasim
The 'sacrifice of Dahir' refers to the death of King Dahir of Sindh during the Arab invasion led by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 AD. Dahir died fighting bravely on the battlefield at the Battle of Aror. His defeat and subsequent death marked the end of the Hindu dynasty in Sindh and facilitated the establishment of the first major Islamic administrative foothold in the Indian subcontinent.

**102.** (B) The Deccan plateau
The term 'Deshmukh' refers to a hereditary landholder and administrative officer who was prominent in the Deccan plateau, particularly in the regions of Maharashtra and parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Deshmukhs were responsible for revenue collection and maintaining order within a group of villages or a district (pargana). They served as key intermediaries between the regional state authorities and the local agrarian communities for several centuries.

**103.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The Lodi Dynasty was the first Afghan dynasty to rule the Delhi Sultanate. Sikandar Lodi, one of its most capable rulers, is credited with founding the city of Agra in 1504 and shifting the capital there. The dynasty's rule concluded in 1526 when Ibrahim Lodi was defeated by Babur at the First Battle of Panipat, which led to the establishment of the Mughal Empire in India.

**104.** (A) Rani Durgavati
Rani Durgavati was the valiant Gond queen of Garha-Katanga who led a heroic resistance against the Mughal invasion under Akbar in 1564. Serving as regent for her young son, she personally commanded her troops on the battlefield. When faced with inevitable defeat against the larger Mughal army led by Asaf Khan, she chose to commit suicide to protect her honor rather than surrender.

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**105.** (C) Medini Rai
The Battle of Chanderi in 1528 was fought between the forces of the Mughal Emperor Babur and the Rajputs led by Medini Rai. Medini Rai was a powerful chieftain and a close ally of Rana Sanga. Babur's victory at Chanderi further weakened the Rajput confederacy and consolidated Mughal control over the central Indian region, following his previous victories at Panipat and Khanwa.

**106.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
The major invasions and battles that shaped medieval and early modern Indian history occurred in distinct years. The First Battle of Panipat took place in 1526, while the Third Battle occurred in 1761. Timur's devastating invasion of Delhi happened in 1398. Later, the Persian

on merit and held office at the Chhatrapati's pleasure. This non-hereditary nature ensured that the administration remained efficient and directly accountable to the monarch, preventing the rise of powerful, independent noble lineages.

**140.** (B) The head of the military department and paymaster general.
In the Mughal administration, the 'Mir Bakshi' was the high-ranking official responsible for the military department. His duties included the recruitment of soldiers, the maintenance of the Mansabdari records, and serving as the paymaster general for the entire imperial army. The Mir Bakshi also oversaw the inspection of troops and horses, ensuring that the empire's military forces were consistently ready for both internal security and external campaigns.

**141.** (C) Alauddin Khalji
The system of 'dagh' (branding of horses) and 'chehra' (maintaining descriptive rolls of soldiers) was strictly enforced by Sultan Alauddin Khalji. These measures were designed to prevent corruption within the army, ensuring that soldiers did not substitute inferior horses or men for those registered with the state. This rigorous system of military identification and quality control was essential for maintaining the effectiveness of his large standing army during the Delhi Sultanate.

**142.** (A) Berar, Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda, Bidar
The disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom into five independent sultanates followed a specific chronological sequence. Berar was the first to declare independence in 1490, followed closely by Bijapur and Ahmednagar in the same year. Golconda established its independence later in 1518, and Bidar was the last to formally break away in 1528. This gradual fracturing fundamentally reshaped the political landscape of the Deccan region during the early sixteenth century.

**143.** (A) It resulted in the sack of the city of Vijayanagara (Hampi).
The Battle of Talikota in 1565 was a catastrophic event for South Indian history. A coalition of the Deccan Sultanates defeated the Vijayanagara army, leading to the utter destruction and sack of its magnificent capital, Hampi. This event marked the end of Vijayanagara as a dominant empire. While the kingdom survived in a diminished form, its political supremacy and the glory of its capital were permanently lost following this decisive military engagement.

**144.** (B) Military commanders (Nayakas) for maintaining troops.
Amaram was a land tenure system in the Vijayanagara Empire where the king granted portions of land to military commanders, known as Nayakas. In return, these commanders were required to maintain a specified number of infantry, cavalry, and elephants for the royal service. This system was the cornerstone of the empire's military organization, allowing the central authority to mobilize large forces while delegating local administration and revenue collection to the military nobility.

**145.** (B) A feudal lord or a subordinate chieftain in South India.
In the context of medieval and early modern South India, a 'Polygar' was a subordinate feudal chieftain or territorial administrator. Originally appointed by the Vijayanagara rulers to maintain local order and provide military support, they became influential local leaders with their own fortified centers. Polygars were responsible for revenue collection and local governance, and they frequently played a significant role in regional politics, sometimes challenging centralized authority during the transition to colonial rule.

**146.** (A) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The Arab invasion of Sindh in 712 AD, led by Muhammad bin Qasim, succeeded in establishing Arab rule over that specific region. However, this authority did not expand to the rest of the Indian subcontinent. Powerful Indian dynasties like the Gurjara-Pratiharas and the rulers of Kashmir successfully resisted further incursions. Consequently, Arab political influence remained largely confined to Sindh and Multan for several centuries, having a limited impact on mainland India.

**147.** (C) Resisting the early Arab incursions.
Bappa Rawal, a legendary eighth-century ruler of the Guhil dynasty of Mewar, is celebrated in Rajasthani folklore for his role in resisting early Arab incursions. Traditional accounts describe

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needs of village communities were addressed within a manageable administrative framework.

**164.** (B) 2 and 3 only
'Jouhar' was a traditional practice performed by Rajput women to preserve their honor and avoid capture by invading forces. It involved mass self-immolation when a military defeat was certain. This ritual was typically followed by 'Saka', where the men donned saffron robes and charged into the battlefield to fight to the death. Together, these acts demonstrated the ultimate commitment of the Rajput nobility to their principles of honor, valor, and independence.

**165.** (C) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
The Arab traveler and historian Al-Masudi, who visited India in the tenth century, wrote extensively about the power and prestige of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty. He described their powerful army and their role as the primary obstacle to the further expansion of Arab rule from Sindh into Northern India. His accounts provide valuable historical evidence of the dynasty's military strength and its significance as a major political power in medieval India.

**166.** (B) 1025 AD
Mahmud of Ghazni's most famous and devastating invasion of India occurred in 1025 AD, when he targeted the Somnath temple in Gujarat. The temple was renowned for its immense wealth and religious significance. Mahmud's forces sacked the temple, destroyed the sacred idol, and looted a vast fortune in gold and jewels. This raid left a lasting impact on the collective memory of the region and exemplified the destructive nature of his campaigns.

**167.** (D) Prithviraj Chauhan
The first and second Battles of Tarain, fought in 1191 and 1192 AD respectively, were landmark engagements between the forces of Muhammad Ghori and the Rajput ruler Prithviraj Chauhan. In the first battle, Prithviraj emerged victorious, temporarily halting Ghori's advance. However, in the second battle, Ghori returned with a better-organized force and defeated the Rajputs. This victory was a turning point that led to the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate in Northern India.

**168.** (A) The Tughlaqs
At the time of Timur's invasion in 1398 AD, the Tughlaq Dynasty was ruling Delhi. The Sultan was Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah Tughlaq. The invasion resulted in the near-total destruction of the capital and the massacre of its inhabitants, which fatally weakened the Tughlaq's authority. This catastrophic event led to the disintegration of the Sultanate's power and paved the way for the rise of regional independent kingdoms and the subsequent Saiyad Dynasty.

**169.** (C) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign is notable for several innovative but largely unsuccessful administrative projects. These included the temporary transfer of the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad to better control the Deccan, the introduction of a token copper currency, and the creation of a specialized agricultural department known as the Diwan-i-kohi. While these experiments showed his intellectual curiosity and desire for reform, their poor execution and lack of public support caused widespread economic and political hardship.

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**170.** (A) Battle of Chausa
The Battle of Chausa was not fought by Babur, but by his son Humayun in 1539. In this battle, Humayun was decisively defeated by the Afghan leader Sher Shah Suri. Babur's major military engagements in India included the First Battle of Panipat (1526) against Ibrahim Lodi, the Battle of Khanwa (1527) against Rana Sanga, and the Battle of Ghaghara (1529) against eastern Afghan forces, all of which established Mughal power.

**171.** (D) Sikhs
The execution of Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir in 1606 was a critical turning point in Mughal-Sikh relations. The Guru was executed on charges of supporting the rebellion of Prince Khusrau. This event led the Sikh community to adopt a more defensive and militarized stance under their subsequent Gurus, beginning a long period of conflict between the Sikhs and the Mughal state that would shape the history of Punjab.

**172.** (B) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
The Bahmani Kingdom was established in 1347 in the Deccan as a direct result of a rebellion against

called Iqtadars, were frequently transferred from one region to another. This practice was intended to prevent the development of local power bases and ensure that the Iqtadars remained directly dependent on the central authority of the Sultan.

**156.** (B) The Marathas
Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were two essential taxes collected by the Maratha Empire. Chauth consisted of one-fourth of the land revenue of a region and was levied in exchange for protection from raids. Sardeshmukhi was an additional ten percent tax claimed by the Marathas based on their status as the hereditary overlords (Sardeshmukhs) of the land. These taxes were instrumental in financing the rapid expansion and military operations of the Maratha state across India.

**157.** (C) Kannauj
The 'Tripartite Struggle' was a prolonged conflict during the early medieval period between the Gurjara-Pratiharas, the Palas of Bengal, and the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan. The primary objective of this struggle was to gain control of the city of Kannauj in the Gangetic plains. At the time, Kannauj was seen as the symbol of imperial sovereignty in Northern India, and its possession conferred significant political prestige and economic control over the fertile river valley.

**158.** (D) The Prophet Muhammad
Khizr Khan, the founder of the Saiyad Dynasty that ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1414 to 1421 AD, claimed to be a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. It is due to this claimed lineage that the dynasty is referred to as the 'Saiyad' (or Sayyid) Dynasty. While his rule began after the devastating invasion of Timur, Khizr Khan chose not to take the title of Sultan, instead ruling as a deputy of the Timurids.

**159.** (A) Muhammad Shah
Nadir Shah's devastating invasion of India in 1739 took place during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah. The invasion culminated in the Battle of Karnal, where the Mughal forces were decisively defeated. Nadir Shah then occupied Delhi, where he ordered a general massacre and systematically plundered the city's vast wealth, including the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor diamond, leaving the Mughal Empire in a state of terminal decline.

**160.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Battle of Talikota in 1565 was the definitive end of the Vijayanagara Empire's status as the dominant power in South India. A united coalition of the Deccan Sultanates—Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda, and Bidar—crushed the Vijayanagara army. The subsequent destruction of the capital city, Hampi, was so complete that the empire could never fully recover its former glory, leading to its eventual fragmentation into smaller regional principalities.

**161.** (B) A ten percent levy above the Chauth.
Sardeshmukhi was a tax levied by the Marathas that amounted to ten percent of the land revenue. It was collected in addition to the Chauth. The Marathas claimed this tax based on the assertion that the Chhatrapati was the 'Sardeshmukh' or the hereditary head of all the Deshmukhs in the region. This claim served to both increase the state's revenue and reinforce the Maratha king's traditional authority over the local landholding nobility.

**162.** (A) Akbar
Sher Shah Suri's administrative reforms, particularly in land revenue and local governance, were so innovative and effective that they served as a direct model for the Mughal Emperor Akbar. Sher Shah's system of measuring land, classifying it by fertility, and fixing revenue based on average yields provided the foundation for Akbar's later 'Zabt' and 'Dahsala' systems. This continuity in administrative practice significantly contributed to the stability and prosperity of the Mughal Empire.

**163.** (C) A group of villages
In the administrative hierarchy of medieval South Indian kingdoms like the Cholas and later the Vijayanagara Empire, the 'Nadu' was an important territorial unit consisting of a group of villages. Each Nadu had its own assembly, which was responsible for managing local agricultural activities, revenue assessment, and minor judicial matters. This decentralized structure allowed for effective local governance and ensured that the

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**115.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Mongol invasions during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries posed a constant threat to the survival of the Delhi Sultanate. To defend against these frequent and large-scale raids, rulers like Balban and Alauddin Khalji were forced to implement extensive military reforms. This included the construction of a chain of frontier forts and the maintenance of a large, well-equipped standing army, which significantly influenced the sultanate's administrative and fiscal policies.

**116.** (D) A general under Mahmud of Ghazni.
Raja Suheldeva is traditionally celebrated for his victory over Salar Masud, a prominent general and nephew of Mahmud of Ghazni. The decisive encounter took place during the Battle of Bahraich in the early eleventh century. Suheldeva's successful resistance halted the advance of the Ghaznavid forces into the central Gangetic plains, preserving the independence of regional kingdoms and securing his legacy as a legendary defender of the land.

**117.** (C) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
Muhammad bin Tughlaq is well-known for his ambitious but often unsuccessful administrative experiments, including the introduction of a 'token currency' in 1329-30 AD. He issued copper and brass coins with the same face value as silver and gold ones. However, the lack of government control over minting led to widespread forgery and economic disruption, eventually forcing the Sultan to withdraw the currency and compensate the public with precious metal coins.

**118.** (B) Jahangir
The primary conflict between the Mughal Empire and the Sikhs began during the reign of Jahangir. The relationship soured following the execution of the fifth Sikh Guru, Arjan Dev, in 1606. The Guru was accused of supporting the rebellion of Prince Khusrau. This event marked a significant turning point, as it led the Sikh community to adopt a more militarized stance to defend their religious identity and community against imperial persecution.

**119.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Ahmad Shah Abdali, a former general of Nadir Shah, established the Durrani Empire in Afghanistan and launched multiple invasions into India. His most famous victory was at the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761, where he decisively defeated the Marathas. While his invasions were devastating and led to the plunder of wealth, his primary aim was to secure his frontiers and acquire riches rather than establish a permanent Afghan empire across India.

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**120.** (A) The Deccan
The disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom into five independent sultanates is a pivotal chapter in the history of the Deccan region. Starting in the late fifteenth century, the kingdom fractured into Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar, Bidar, and Berar. These five states, collectively known as the Deccan Sultanates, fostered a unique Indo-Islamic culture and remained the dominant political forces in Central and Southern India until their eventual annexation by the Mughals.

**121.** (C) A sovereign, independent kingdom.
The foundation of 'Hindvi Swaraj' by Shivaji represented the declaration of a sovereign, independent kingdom. It was an assertion of self-rule by the indigenous population against the authority of foreign powers like the Mughal Empire and the Deccan Sultanates. Shivaji aimed to establish a state that protected local traditions, promoted justice, and ensured the welfare of his subjects, regardless of their religious background, while maintaining complete political autonomy.

**122.** (A) Aggressive military levy of Chauth.
Under the Peshwas, the Maratha Empire underwent significant territorial expansion, primarily driven by the aggressive collection of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi. These levies, which represented a substantial portion of the revenue of non-Maratha territories, provided the necessary funds to maintain large armies and finance further campaigns. This system allowed the Marathas to assert their dominance across much of Northern and Central India, establishing a vast confederacy that challenged Mughal supremacy.

the authority of Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq. The founder, Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah, led a successful revolt of the Deccan nobles who were dissatisfied with the Sultan's centralized and often erratic policies. This established the first major independent Muslim state in Southern India, which remained a significant power until its disintegration in the early sixteenth century.

**173.** (C) Vijayanagara Empire
The Nayaka system was a core administrative feature of the Vijayanagara Empire. Under this system, military chiefs known as Nayakas were granted territories in exchange for providing military service and maintaining a fixed number of troops for the king. These chiefs also held administrative and judicial powers within their assigned regions. This decentralized system was essential for the empire's military mobilization and the governance of its vast and diverse southern Indian territories.

**174.** (D) The Third Battle of Panipat
Balaji Baji Rao, the third hereditary Peshwa, is associated with the major military disaster of the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761. In this conflict, the Maratha army faced the invading Afghan forces of Ahmad Shah Abdali. The Marathas suffered a crushing defeat, resulting in the loss of thousands of soldiers and key leaders. This failure severely weakened the Maratha Empire's influence in North India and was a significant blow to their pan-Indian ambitions.

**175.** (A) The Mughal Emperor Akbar.
The 'Zabt' system of land revenue was a highly sophisticated administrative innovation of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, further refined by his finance minister Raja Todar Mal. It involved the systematic measurement of land and the assessment of revenue based on the average price and yield of crops over a ten-year period (Dahsala). This system provided the state with a stable income while reducing the arbitrary nature of revenue collection, benefiting both the treasury and the peasantry.

**176.** (B) Absolute peace
'Sulah-i-kul' is a Persian term that literally translates to 'absolute peace' or 'universal harmony'. It was the guiding principle of the Mughal Emperor Akbar's religious and administrative policy. By promoting Sulah-i-kul, Akbar sought to create an inclusive environment where individuals of all faiths could live together in mutual respect and tolerance, thereby ensuring the social and political stability of his vast and diverse empire.

**177.** (B) Muhammad bin Qasim
The Arab invasion of Sindh in 712 AD was led by the young general Muhammad bin Qasim, who acted under the orders of Al-Hajjaj, the governor of Iraq. Bin Qasim's successful campaign resulted in the capture of key cities like Debal and Multan and the defeat of the local ruler, King Dahir. This invasion marked the first successful establishment of Arab administrative and political rule within the Indian subcontinent, specifically in the Indus valley.

**178.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Muhammad Ghori's invasions were instrumental in the eventual foundation of the Delhi Sultanate. Unlike Mahmud of Ghazni, whose primary focus was on plundering wealth, Ghori aimed to establish a permanent and lasting empire in India. After his victories, he left his newly conquered territories in the hands of his trusted general and deputy, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, who would later become the first Sultan of Delhi, marking the start of continuous Muslim rule.

**179.** (C) Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq
The Tughlaq Dynasty was founded by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq in 1320 AD after he overthrew the last Khalji ruler. He was a capable military leader who focused on restoring order to the Sultanate and strengthening its frontiers against Mongol threats. His reign initiated a period of significant territorial expansion and administrative reforms, although the dynasty would later face challenges under his successors, Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq.

**180.** (D) Sher Shah Suri
Sher Shah Suri was the brilliant Afghan leader who defeated the Mughal Emperor Humayun and drove him out of India for fifteen years. Following his victories at the battles of Chausa in 1539 and Kannauj in 1540, Sher Shah established the Sur Empire and assumed control of Delhi and Northern India. He is celebrated for his remarkable administrative, land revenue, and

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equitable and predictable tax system, reducing the power of intermediaries and promoting agricultural stability.

**214.** (B) Wali or Muqti
In the provincial administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the head of a major administrative division (Ikta) was known as the Wali or Muqti. These high-ranking officials were responsible for the overall governance of their assigned territories, including the maintenance of military forces, the preservation of law and order, and the collection of state revenue. They served at the Sultan's pleasure and were a key link in the centralized administrative structure of the Sultanate across Northern India.

**215.** (D) The Mansabdari system
The 'Zat' and 'Sawar' ranks were the two core components of the Mansabdari system introduced by the Mughal Emperor Akbar. 'Zat' indicated the personal rank and status of the official in the imperial hierarchy and determined their salary. 'Sawar' specified the number of cavalrymen (horsemen) the official was required to maintain for the state's military service. Together, these two ranks defined the administrative and military obligations of every noble in the unified Mughal service.

**216.** (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Arab invasion of Sindh in 712 AD led to a permanent Arab presence in the region but had a limited political impact on the rest of India. The Arab advance was effectively halted by several powerful Indian dynasties, most notably the Gurjara-Pratiharas, who resisted their eastward expansion. As a result, Arab rule remained confined to the Sindh and Multan regions for several centuries, leaving the core of the Indian subcontinent under the control of various indigenous powers.

**217.** (C) Ibrahim Lodi
Ibrahim Lodi was the last ruler of the Lodi Dynasty and the final Sultan of the Delhi Sultanate. He was defeated and killed by the forces of Babur at the First Battle of Panipat in 1526. His death on the battlefield marked the end of Afghan rule in Delhi and facilitated the establishment of the Mughal Empire. Ibrahim Lodi is remembered as a brave but overly centralized and unpopular ruler among his own nobility.

**218.** (A) Maharana Pratap
Maharana Pratap of Mewar is renowned for his unrelenting and courageous resistance against the Mughal Empire during the reign of Akbar. After the fall of the capital, Chittorgarh, Pratap continued the struggle from the hills and forests of the Aravallis. He famously fought the Mughal forces at the Battle of Haldighati in 1576 and refused to submit to imperial authority, becoming an enduring symbol of Rajput valor, independence, and the spirit of defiance.

**219.** (D) The Vijayanagara Empire
The five Deccan Sultanates—Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda, Bidar, and Berar—frequently engaged in internal conflicts and shifting alliances. However, they famously united their forces to challenge the power of the Vijayanagara Empire. This temporary coalition led to the decisive Battle of Talikota in 1565, where the combined armies of the Sultanates defeated the Vijayanagara forces. This victory resulted in the destruction of the city of Vijayanagara and significantly altered the power dynamics in Southern India.

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**220.** (B) Shivaji
The concept of 'Hindvi Swaraj' is most closely associated with Shivaji, the founder of the Maratha Empire. It represented his vision of establishing a sovereign, independent state that was free from foreign and external rule, particularly that of the Mughals and the Deccan Sultanates. Shivaji's efforts to create a just and self-governed kingdom for the local people, protecting their cultural and religious values, made 'Hindvi Swaraj' a powerful and enduring ideal in Indian history.

**221.** (C) Military Paymaster General
In the Mughal administrative structure, the 'Mir Bakshi' performed duties that are most analogous to a modern military paymaster general. He was responsible for maintaining the records of all Mansabdars and overseen the disbursement of their salaries. Additionally, he managed the recruitment of soldiers, the inspection of troops and horses, and ensured that the military obligations of the nobility were met, making

**189.** (C) Babur
The Battle of Ghaghara, fought in 1529, was the last major battle conducted by the Mughal Emperor Babur in India. In this engagement, Babur's forces defeated a combined army of eastern Afghan chiefs and the Sultan of Bengal. This victory consolidated Babur's control over the Indo-Gangetic plains and eliminated the final significant organized threat to his rule, ensuring the stability of the nascent Mughal Empire shortly before his death in 1530.

**190.** (D) Shahjahan - Led the Satnami resistance
The Satnami resistance was not led by a Mughal emperor, but was a rebellion by a peasant sect against the Mughal state. This revolt took place during the reign of Aurangzeb in 1672, not during the reign of Shah Jahan. Shah Jahan is best remembered for his patronage of architecture and the Taj Mahal. Other matches, like Humayun's struggle with Sher Shah and Akbar's siege of Chittorgarh, are historically accurate.

**191.** (A) Long periods of Deccan stability.
The rise of the Maratha Empire was actually facilitated by the instability and decline of the existing powers in the Deccan, not by their stability. The weakening of the Deccan Sultanates and the overextension of the Mughal Empire under Aurangzeb provided the strategic opportunity for Shivaji to establish an independent state. Other factors like Shivaji's leadership, the Bhakti movement's unifying effect, and the rugged terrain of Maharashtra were all crucial to their rise.

**192.** (B) Religious matters and charity.
In Shivaji's Ashtapradhan, the 'Panditrao' was the minister responsible for overseeing religious affairs, charitable endowments, and moral conduct. His duties included managing state-sponsored religious ceremonies, distributing grants to temples and scholars, and advising the Chhatrapati on matters related to religious law and tradition. This role ensured that the state fulfilled its religious obligations and maintained a focus on the moral and spiritual well-being of the Maratha society.

**193.** (B) Subedar or Nazim
In the Mughal administrative system, the governor of a province, or suba, was officially known as the Subedar or Nazim. This high-ranking official was directly appointed by the Emperor and was responsible for maintaining law and order, commanding the provincial military forces, and implementing imperial decrees within his jurisdiction. The Subedar worked alongside other provincial officers, like the Diwan, to ensure that the province was governed efficiently and remained loyal to the central authority.

**194.** (A) Trade and finance
In medieval Indian historical sources, the term 'Hundi' is consistently found in the context of trade and financial transactions. A Hundi was an indigenous financial instrument that functioned as a bill of exchange, allowing for the secure and efficient transfer of funds between different commercial centers. Its widespread use by the merchant community highlights the sophistication of the credit and banking systems that supported regional and long-distance trade during the medieval period.

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**195.** (C) Bappa Rawal
Bappa Rawal is the celebrated eighth-century ruler of the Guhil dynasty who is credited with repelling the early Arab invasions in Northern India. Historical tradition holds that he led a coalition of Rajput kings to defeat the Arab forces that had advanced from Sindh. His military successes preserved the independence of Mewar and established a legacy of resistance that characterized the history of the Rajput states for several centuries during the medieval period.

**196.** (D) Prosperous northern temple towns.
Mahmud of Ghazni's multiple invasions of India primarily targeted the wealthy and prosperous temple towns of Northern India. His raids on cities like Mathura, Kannauj, and Somnath were driven by the desire to loot the vast riches stored in these religious and urban centers. These campaigns resulted in immense destruction and the loss of significant wealth, which Mahmud used to finance his empire and establish his capital at Ghazni as a major cultural hub.

**197.** (C) Jalal-ud-din Firoz Khalji
The Khalji Dynasty was founded in 1290 AD by Jalal-ud-din Firoz Khalji. He rose to power by overthrowing the last rulers of the Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty, representing a shift in power

**246.** (B) An alliance of the Deccan Sultanates
The Battle of Talikota in 1565 was fought between the Vijayanagara Empire and a united alliance of the Deccan Sultanates, including Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda, and Bidar. This coalition was formed specifically to challenge and diminish the overwhelming power and dominance of the Vijayanagara Empire in Southern India. The decisive defeat of the Vijayanagara forces and the subsequent destruction of their capital, Hampi, fundamentally changed the political landscape and power balance of the region.

**247.** (D) The council of eight ministers of Shivaji
The term 'Ashtapradhan' refers to the council of eight ministers established by Shivaji to assist in the administration of the Maratha Empire. Each minister was assigned a specific portfolio, such as the Peshwa (Prime Minister), Amatya (Finance), and Sumant (Foreign Affairs). This council was directly responsible to the Chhatrapati and played a vital role in centralizing authority and ensuring the efficient governance and military organization of the newly established sovereign Maratha state.

**248.** (A) A system of assigning land to military chiefs.
In the Vijayanagara administrative system, the 'Nayankara' system was a core mechanism where the king assigned land, known as 'Amaram', to military chiefs or Nayakas. In return, these chiefs were responsible for providing military service, maintaining a specified number of troops, and ensuring local administration and revenue collection within their territories. This system was crucial for the empire's ability to mobilize large military forces and govern its vast and diverse southern Indian provinces.

**249.** (C) A grading system for rank and salary.
The Mansabdari system, introduced by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, was a sophisticated grading system used to define the rank, status, and salary of all imperial officials, both civil and military. Each official, or Mansabdar, held a specific rank consisting of 'Zat' (personal status) and 'Sawar' (military obligation). This unified hierarchy ensured that the nobility was organized into a single service, directly accountable to the Emperor, which was essential for maintaining central imperial authority.

**250.** (A) A policy of peace and harmony among different religions.
The concept of 'Sulah-i-kul', as promoted by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, was a policy aimed at fostering peace, harmony, and tolerance among the various religious and ethnic groups within his empire. Translating to 'universal peace', it encouraged mutual respect and allowed individuals of all faiths to practice their religion freely without state interference. This inclusive approach was central to Akbar's efforts to unify his diverse subjects and consolidate the social and political stability.

**251.** (D) Gurjara-Pratiharas
During the early medieval period, the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty played a vital role in defeating Arab forces and checking their eastward expansion from Sindh into Northern India. Throughout the eighth and ninth centuries, the Pratiharas served as a formidable military barrier, preserving the territorial integrity of the Indian heartland. Their successes ensured that Arab political control remained limited to the Indus valley, protecting the core regions of the subcontinent from further incursions for several centuries.

**252.** (B) Plundering wealth
The primary motive behind the seventeen invasions of India by Mahmud of Ghazni in the early eleventh century was to plunder the vast riches of Indian temples and cities. Mahmud used this looted wealth to fund his military campaigns in Central Asia and to transform his capital at Ghazni into a major center of Islamic art, culture, and learning. While his raids had religious overtones, his strategic priority was economic gain rather than permanent territorial conquest.

**253.** (C) Alauddin Khalji
Radical market regulation and price control policies were a hallmark of the reign of Sultan Alauddin Khalji. To maintain a large standing army without bankrupting the state, he fixed the prices of essential commodities like grains, cloth, and livestock. His administration used strict surveillance, a network of spies, and harsh punishments to ensure compliance among traders. This highly centralized economic policy

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them from building local power bases. This system allowed the Mughal state to maintain its large bureaucracy and military without physical cash disbursements.

**206.** (D) Aurangzeb
Jaziya, the poll-tax on non-Muslim subjects, was reimposed by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1679. This tax had been abolished over a century earlier by Akbar as part of his policy of religious tolerance. Aurangzeb's decision to bring back Jaziya was driven by both fiscal needs and his more orthodox religious views. The reimposition caused significant resentment and led to protests among various sections of the population, contributing to the internal challenges faced during his reign.

**207.** (A) Vikramaditya II
The Chalukya King Vikramaditya II is credited with a significant victory over Arab invaders in the eighth century. During his reign, Arab forces that had already conquered Sindh attempted to advance further south into the Deccan. A major battle took place in which the Chalukyan forces, led by a local governor, decisively defeated the Arabs. This victory checked the southern expansion of the Arab armies and preserved the territorial integrity of the South Indian kingdoms.

**208.** (B) Afghan
The Lodi Dynasty, which was the final dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate, was of Afghan origin. This marked a departure from the earlier dynasties, which were primarily of Turkic descent. The Lodis introduced a more decentralized form of governance that reflected their tribal traditions, emphasizing the position of the Sultan as "first among equals" among the Afghan nobility. Their rule ended in 1526 with the defeat of Ibrahim Lodi by the Mughal Emperor Babur.

**209.** (B) His wife, Hamida Banu Begum
Humayun's tomb in Delhi, an architectural masterpiece that influenced the design of the Taj Mahal, was commissioned by his widow, Hamida Banu Begum (also known as Haji Begum). Construction began in the 1560s, several years after Humayun's death. The tomb is notable for its use of red sandstone and white marble, its large-scale garden setting (Charbagh), and its synthesis of Persian and Indian architectural elements, representing a landmark in early Mughal construction.

**210.** (A) Guru Gobind Singh
The 'Khalsa', a community of disciplined Sikh warriors, was founded by Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, in 1699. This was a direct response to the increasing religious persecution and military pressure from the Mughal Empire under Aurangzeb. The establishment of the Khalsa transformed the Sikh community into a militarized body dedicated to defending their faith and fighting against tyranny, fundamentally changing the political and social dynamics of the Punjab region.

**211.** (C) The Vijayanagara Empire
The Bahmani Kingdom, established in the Deccan in 1347, was involved in a state of near-perpetual conflict with its southern neighbor, the Vijayanagara Empire. The primary cause of their frequent wars was the control over the fertile Raichur Doab and the lucrative diamond mines and sea ports of the region. This intense rivalry for territorial and economic dominance defined the political landscape of Southern India for nearly two centuries until the disintegration of both powers.

**212.** (D) Baji Rao I
The capture of Bassein (modern-day Vasai) from the Portuguese in 1739 was a major military achievement during the tenure of Peshwa Baji Rao I. The campaign was led by his brother, Chimaji Appa. This victory was significant as it demonstrated the growing maritime and terrestrial military strength of the Maratha Empire and forced the Portuguese to surrender a key strategic and commercial stronghold on the western coast of India, further enhancing Maratha prestige and influence.

**213.** (C) Assessment through land measurement.
A fundamental feature of Shivaji's revenue administration was the systematic assessment of land through direct measurement. He abolished the practice of farmed revenue and instead established a direct relationship between the state and the peasantry. Revenue was fixed as a specific percentage of the crop yield, which was determined through actual surveys and soil classification. This approach ensured a more

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within the Turkish nobility. Although his reign was relatively brief and focused on consolidation, his nephew and successor, Alauddin Khalji, would later expand the dynasty's reach across a much larger portion of the Indian subcontinent through extensive military conquests and administrative reforms.

**198.** (B) Rana Sanga of Mewar
The Battle of Khanwa in 1527 was a critical engagement between the Mughal Emperor Babur and a powerful confederacy of Rajput rulers led by Rana Sanga of Mewar. This battle was significant because the Rajputs sought to expel Babur from India and restore indigenous rule. Babur's decisive victory, achieved through superior military tactics and the use of artillery, effectively ended the organized Rajput threat to his fledgling empire and secured Mughal dominance in Northern India.

**199.** (D) Koh-i-Noor diamond and the Peacock Throne
Nadir Shah's invasion and sack of Delhi in 1739 resulted in the capture of a staggering amount of wealth. Among the most famous treasures taken were the legendary Koh-i-Noor diamond and the magnificent Peacock Throne, which had been commissioned by Shah Jahan. The loss of these iconic symbols of Mughal power and wealth, along with a vast fortune in gold and jewels, underscored the devastating impact of the invasion on the Mughal Empire.

**200.** (A) Mewar
During the reign of Jahangir, the state of Mewar continued its long-standing resistance to Mughal authority. This struggle had been led earlier by Maharana Pratap and was continued by his son, Rana Amar Singh. Eventually, in 1615, after a series of military campaigns, a peace treaty was signed between Jahangir and Amar Singh. This settlement recognized Mughal suzerainty while allowing the Rana to maintain his status and honor, ending decades of prolonged conflict.

**201.** (C) Krishnadevaraya
The reign of Krishnadevaraya (1509-1529) is widely considered the 'Golden Age' of the Vijayanagara Empire. He was a brilliant military leader who expanded the empire's territories and a great patron of art and literature. Under his rule, the empire reached its peak of political power and cultural prosperity. He himself was a scholar and author, and his court was famous for the presence of the Ashtadiggajas, the eight celebrated poets of Telugu literature.

**202.** (A) Shahu
The office of the Peshwa became supreme and hereditary during the reign of Chhatrapati Shahu. After being released from Mughal captivity, Shahu relied heavily on the diplomatic and administrative skills of Balaji Vishwanath, whom he appointed as Peshwa in 1713. This transition led to the Peshwas exercising de facto power over the empire's administration and expansion, while the subsequent Chhatrapatis increasingly took on a more symbolic and nominal role as heads of the state.

**203.** (D) Revenue and Finance
In the administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the 'Diwan-i-Wizarat' was the central department responsible for revenue and finance. It was headed by the Wazir, the most powerful official after the Sultan. The department oversaw the assessment and collection of taxes, managed state expenditures, and maintained the imperial accounts. The efficiency of the Diwan-i-Wizarat was crucial for the Sultanate's ability to maintain its large military forces and support its various administrative and welfare activities.

**204.** (B) Use of the Mughal Mansabdari system.
Sher Shah Suri's administrative reforms were highly effective and preceded the Mughal era. He introduced the silver 'Rupiya' and established a vast network of roads, including the famous Grand Trunk Road, to improve communication and trade. While his centralized governance and land revenue policies were later adopted by the Mughals, the Mansabdari system itself was a specific innovation introduced later by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, and was not part of Sher Shah's administrative framework.

**205.** (C) Assigned revenue in lieu of salary.
In the Mughal administrative system, a 'Jagir' was an assignment of the right to collect revenue from a specific piece of land, given to an official (Jagirdar) in lieu of a cash salary for their services. These assignments were typically not hereditary and the Jagirdars were frequently transferred between different regions to prevent

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him a central figure in the empire's military and administrative organization.

**222.** (D) The regional ruler Shershah Suri.
The administrative innovations of 'Patta' and 'Qabuliyat' were introduced by Sher Shah Suri to bring transparency to land revenue collection. A 'Patta' was a title deed given to the peasant, clearly stating the area of land under cultivation and the tax they were required to pay. 'Qabuliyat' was the peasant's deed of agreement to pay that specific amount. These documents protected the peasants from over-taxation and ensured a stable revenue stream for the state.

**223.** (A) A grant of land or revenue to a military chief.
In the context of the Vijayanagara Empire, 'Amaram' refers to the system of granting land or revenue rights to military chiefs, known as Nayakas. In exchange for these grants, the Nayakas were required to maintain a specified number of troops and provide military assistance to the king whenever called upon. This system was the cornerstone of the empire's military and provincial administration, facilitating the decentralized governance of its vast and diverse southern Indian territories.

**224.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Chauth was a significant tax levied by the Marathas, amounting to one-fourth of the land revenue of a territory. It was primarily collected from neighboring regions that were not under direct Maratha rule. The payment of Chauth served as a claim of regional sovereignty and acted as a guarantee that the Marathas would protect the region from foreign invasions and, crucially, refrain from raiding the territory themselves, providing a form of security.

**225.** (B) Raja Suheldeva
Raja Suheldeva is historically celebrated for his leadership in resisting the forces of the Ghaznavid Empire. According to traditional accounts, he led a coalition of local kings to a decisive victory over the forces of Salar Masud, a prominent general and relative of Mahmud of Ghazni, at the Battle of Bahraich in the early eleventh century. This victory halted the Ghaznavid advance into the central Gangetic plains, preserving the independence of the regional Indian kingdoms.

**226.** (A) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
Muhammad bin Tughlaq is often accused by contemporary chroniclers of being involved in the accidental or planned death of his father, Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. The event occurred in 1325 AD when a temporary wooden pavilion, built to welcome the Sultan back from a successful campaign, collapsed and killed him. Muhammad bin Tughlaq ascended the throne shortly thereafter, and the suspicious nature of the pavilion's collapse has led to long-standing historical debate regarding his possible role.

**227.** (C) The Rajputs under Medini Rai
The Battle of Chanderi in 1528 was a military campaign led by the Mughal Emperor Babur to subdue the power of the Rajput chieftain Medini Rai. Medini Rai was a key ally of Rana Sanga and controlled the strategic fort of Chanderi. Babur's victory at Chanderi, following his success at the Battle of Khanwa, further consolidated Mughal control over Northern India and dismantled the organized resistance of the Rajput confederacy in the central regions of the subcontinent.

**228.** (D) Hindu peasants in the Narnaul region
The Satnamis, who launched a significant revolt during the reign of Aurangzeb in 1672, were a religious sect composed primarily of Hindu peasants and artisans in the Narnaul region of modern-day Haryana. The rebellion was sparked by an altercation between a Satnami peasant and a local revenue official. The conflict quickly escalated into an armed uprising against the Mughal state, reflecting broader discontent over high taxation and the state's orthodox religious policies in the agrarian heartland.

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**229.** (C) Tuluva
Krishnadevaraya, the most celebrated and powerful ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire, belonged to the Tuluva Dynasty. He reigned from 1509 to 1529, a period during which the empire reached its cultural and political zenith. Krishnadevaraya's leadership was characterized by successful military campaigns, extensive patronage of the arts, and significant administrative reforms. His dynasty was the third of the four major dynasties—Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, and Aravidu—that governed the Vijayanagara Empire throughout its history.

**230.** (B) Foreign Affairs
In Shivaji's Ashtapradhan council, the minister known as the 'Sumant' was responsible for managing foreign affairs and diplomatic relations. His duties included receiving foreign envoys, managing correspondence with other regional and imperial powers, and advising the Chhatrapati on matters concerning war, peace, and alliances. The Sumant's role was crucial for navigating the complex geopolitical landscape of seventeenth-century India and protecting the interests of the newly established and sovereign Maratha state.

**231.** (D) Perso-Arabic traditions
The administrative system of the Mughals was a complex synthesis of traditional Indian practices and Perso-Arabic administrative models. While the Mughals adopted local revenue and land management systems, they integrated them with hierarchical bureaucratic structures, such as the Mansabdari system, and legal frameworks derived from Persian and Central Asian traditions. This synthesis allowed the Mughal Empire to effectively govern a vast and diverse population while maintaining a centralized and sophisticated imperial administration for several centuries.

**232.** (A) Rajput warfare
'Jouhar' was a traditional and somber practice specifically associated with Rajput warfare and social customs. It involved the mass self-immolation of women, often along with their children, to protect their honor and avoid capture or dishonor by invading forces when a military defeat was inevitable. This act of ultimate sacrifice was a defining characteristic of Rajput valor and their commitment to preserving their independence and family dignity during the various conflicts of the medieval period.

**233.** (C) Bappa Rawal
Bappa Rawal, a prominent eighth-century ruler of the Guhil dynasty of Mewar, is credited in historical tradition with repelling early Arab invasions from Sindh. He is said to have led a coalition of Indian rulers to a significant victory over Arab forces, halting their eastward expansion into Northern India. His leadership secured the autonomy of the Rajput states and established Mewar as a major center of resistance, shaping the political and military history of the region.

**234.** (A) To establish a Muslim empire
Unlike the earlier raids of Mahmud of Ghazni, which were primarily focused on the plunder of wealth, Muhammad Ghori's invasions were driven by the strategic objective of establishing a permanent Muslim empire in India. His victories, particularly at the Second Battle of Tarain in 1192, laid the territorial and political foundation for the Delhi Sultanate. Ghori's campaigns were intended to integrate the Indian territories into his broader Central Asian realm through lasting administrative and military presence.

**235.** (D) Khizr Khan
The Saiyad Dynasty was established in Delhi by Khizr Khan in 1414 AD. He had previously served as a governor under the Central Asian conqueror Timur. Following the chaos caused by Timur's invasion and the collapse of the Tughlaq Dynasty, Khizr Khan seized control of Delhi. Although he founded a new dynasty, he initially ruled as a deputy of the Timurids, and his dynasty's authority was largely restricted to Delhi and its immediate surrounding regions.

**236.** (B) Rana Udai Singh
Akbar's famous siege of the fort of Chittorgarh in 1567-68 was directed against the state of Mewar, then ruled by Rana Udai Singh II. While the Rana himself withdrew to the hills for safety, the fort was valiantly defended by his commanders, Jaimal and Patta. The fall of Chittorgarh after a prolonged and brutal siege was a significant event that marked the expansion of Mughal power into Rajputana and the fierce resistance offered by Mewar.

**237.** (C) Garha-Katanga
The Gond resistance against the Mughal Empire was centered in the prosperous and powerful kingdom of Garha-Katanga, located in central India. This tribal state, ruled by the Gond dynasty, reached its peak under Rani Durgavati. The kingdom was targeted by the Mughals during the reign of Akbar due to its immense wealth and strategic location. The resulting conflict, although leading to a Mughal victory, is remembered for the valiant and heroic defense led by the Gond queen.

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**238.** (D) Tughlaq Dynasty
The rise of the Bahmani Kingdom in 1347 was a direct consequence of the weakening of the Tughlaq Dynasty during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. The decentralized nature of the Sultanate and the dissatisfaction among the Deccan nobles (Amirs) led to a successful revolt under the leadership of Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah. This established the Bahmani Kingdom as an independent and powerful Muslim state in the Deccan, breaking away from the central authority of the Delhi Sultanate.

**239.** (A) Shahu
The Peshwas rose to political and administrative prominence during the reign of the Maratha Chhatrapati Shahu. After being released from Mughal custody, Shahu appointed Balaji Vishwanath as his Peshwa in 1713. Balaji's success in stabilizing the state and negotiating with the Mughals led to the Peshwaship becoming the de facto center of power. This trend continued under his successors, Baji Rao I and Balaji Baji Rao, who oversaw the vast expansion of the Maratha Empire.

**240.** (B) Systematic measurement and assessment.
Sher Shah Suri's land revenue system was highly instrumental and innovative because it introduced the systematic measurement and assessment of agricultural land. He used a standardized unit of measurement and classified land based on its productivity. Revenue was then fixed as a specific share of the average yield, providing a more equitable and predictable tax system for the peasantry and a reliable source of income for the state, a model later refined by the Mughals.

**241.** (B) A revenue assignment in lieu of salary
In the Delhi Sultanate, an 'Ikta' was a revenue assignment given to a military or civil official, known as an Iqtadar, in lieu of a cash salary for their services. The Iqtadar was entitled to collect and keep the land revenue from the assigned territory to support himself and his troops. These assignments were typically not hereditary and were frequently transferred by the Sultan to maintain central control and prevent the emergence of powerful local landlords.

**242.** (A) Resistance from the Gurjara-Pratiharas.
The Arab conquest of Sindh remained an isolated political event primarily due to the fierce resistance offered by the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty in Western and Northern India. During the eighth and ninth centuries, the Pratiharas served as a formidable barrier, successfully repelling numerous Arab attempts to advance beyond Sindh into the Indian heartland. Their military strength preserved the territorial integrity of mainland India and confined the first major Islamic administrative presence to the lower Indus valley.

**243.** (C) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
Qutb-ud-din Aibak was the first ruler and founder of the Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty, which initiated the Delhi Sultanate in 1206 AD. Originally a trusted general and deputy of Muhammad Ghori, Aibak assumed independence after Ghori's death. Although his reign was brief, he laid the foundation of Muslim rule in Northern India and is remembered for starting the construction of the Qutub Minar in Delhi, symbolizing the arrival of a new political era.

**244.** (D) The Third Battle of Panipat
The invasions of the Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali culminated in the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761. In this massive conflict, Abdali's forces decisively defeated the Maratha Empire. The battle resulted in heavy casualties and was a major strategic blow to Maratha influence in North India. While it did not lead to a permanent Afghan empire in India, it created a power vacuum that was eventually filled by the rising influence of the British.

**245.** (C) The Marathas
Aurangzeb's long and ultimately futile war in the Deccan was primarily directed against the Marathas. Following the annexation of the Deccan Sultanates, the Mughal forces were drawn into a prolonged guerrilla war with the Maratha armies led by figures like Sambhaji, Rajaram, and Tarabai. This exhausting conflict, which lasted for over two decades, severely drained the Mughal treasury and military resources, contributing significantly to the weakening of the empire by the time of Aurangzeb's death.

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infrastructure reforms that left a lasting impact on Indian governance.

**181.** (C) Sultanates of the Deccan and Marathas.
During his long reign, Aurangzeb spent several decades in the Deccan, engaged in costly and exhausting wars. His main adversaries were the independent Sultanates of Bijapur and Golconda, which he eventually annexed, and the rising power of the Marathas led by figures like Shivaji and his successors. These prolonged conflicts drained the Mughal treasury, weakened the army, and are widely regarded as a major factor in the subsequent decline of the empire.

**182.** (B) The Kakatiyas of Warangal
Harihara and Bukka, the founders of the Vijayanagara Kingdom, were originally in the service of the Kakatiya Dynasty of Warangal. Following the conquest of the Kakatiyas by the Delhi Sultanate, they were taken to Delhi but later sent back to the Deccan to restore order. According to tradition, influenced by the sage Vidyaranya, they renounced their allegiance to the Sultan and established the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336 to defend Southern Indian culture.

**183.** (D) Pune
Under the Peshwas, the administrative and political headquarters of the Maratha Empire shifted from the traditional capitals like Satara to the city of Pune. During the eighteenth century, Pune grew into a major urban center and the de facto capital of the Maratha state. The Peshwas governed from their magnificent palace, the Shaniwar Wada, overseeing the empire's vast administration and its extensive military campaigns across the Indian subcontinent.

**184.** (A) Collecting land revenue payments.
In the administrative hierarchy of the Delhi Sultanate, the 'Amil' was an official primarily responsible for the collection of land revenue at the local or district level. The Amil worked closely with other local officers, such as the Shiqdar and the Muqaddam, to ensure that the state's share of agricultural produce was assessed and collected efficiently. This role was crucial for maintaining the financial stability of the Sultanate's provincial administration.

**185.** (C) Enduring nature of the Mughal system.
While Sher Shah Suri introduced many brilliant administrative and revenue reforms, his empire was short-lived, lasting only fifteen years. In contrast, the Mughal system, particularly as established by Akbar, proved to be much more enduring and stable over several centuries. The Mughals were able to institutionalize these reforms on a much larger scale, creating a complex and durable bureaucratic structure that integrated diverse regions and communities into a unified imperial framework.

**186.** (A) The regional state of Maharashtra.
The office of the 'Deshmukh' was a key element of the medieval administrative system in the region of Maharashtra. Deshmukhs were hereditary district-level officials responsible for the collection of revenue and the maintenance of law and order within their respective parganas. They held significant social and economic influence and served as vital intermediaries between the central state authority and the local agrarian society, continuing to be important under the Maratha Empire.

**187.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The persistent state of war between the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms was driven by fundamental geopolitical and economic factors. Both powers sought to control the Raichur Doab, a fertile region between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, due to its high agricultural productivity. Additionally, they competed for dominance over the prosperous sea ports on the Konkan and Malabar coasts, which were essential for the lucrative spice trade and the import of war horses.

**188.** (B) It caused widespread destruction and fatally weakened the Delhi Sultanate.
Timur's invasion of India in 1398 AD had a catastrophic impact, leading to the sack of Delhi and the massacre of thousands of its inhabitants. This invasion caused immense economic destruction and shattered the authority of the Tughlaq Dynasty. The resulting chaos and loss of prestige fatally weakened the Delhi Sultanate, leading to the independence of many provincial governors and the eventual emergence of regional kingdoms and the Saiyad Dynasty in the capital.

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stabilized prices in Delhi and supported his extensive military conquests throughout India.

**254.** (D) The Marathas
The Third Battle of Panipat in 1761 was a major military engagement between the invading Afghan forces of Ahmad Shah Abdali and the Maratha Empire. The Marathas, who had become the dominant power in North India, suffered a catastrophic defeat in this battle. The loss of many key leaders and thousands of soldiers significantly weakened Maratha authority and permanently halted their northward expansion, altering the political course of Indian history during the eighteenth century.

**255.** (A) Aurangzeb
Jat resistance against the Mughal Empire was particularly strong and persistent during the reign of Aurangzeb. The Jats, a community of prosperous farmers in the region around Delhi, Agra, and Mathura, rose in rebellion due to high land revenue demands and resentment toward the emperor's orthodox religious policies. These uprisings, led by figures like Gokla, Rajaram, and Churaman, caused significant disruptions and challenged Mughal central authority in the agrarian heartland of Northern India.

**256.** (B) Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah
The Bahmani Kingdom was founded in 1347 by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah, also known as Zafar Khan. He led a successful revolt of the Deccan nobles against the authority of the Delhi Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq. Under his leadership, the Bahmani Kingdom became the first major independent Muslim state in the Deccan, serving as a powerful political and cultural force for nearly two centuries before eventually fracturing into five separate sultanates.

**257.** (B) A sovereign indigenous rule
The foundation of 'Hindvi Swaraj' by Shivaji signified the establishment of a sovereign and indigenous rule in the Maratha territories. It was a declaration of independence from the dominance of foreign powers like the Mughal Empire and the Deccan Sultanates. Shivaji aimed to create a state governed by local people, protecting their cultural and religious traditions while ensuring justice and welfare for all subjects. This vision of self-rule was central to his lifelong mission and legacy.

**258.** (A) Ashtapradhan council
Shivaji's administration is widely known for the 'Ashtapradhan', a council of eight ministers who assisted the Chhatrapati in governing the Maratha state. Each minister, such as the Peshwa (Prime Minister) and Amatya (Finance), held a specific administrative portfolio and was directly responsible to the king. This system provided a structured and efficient central bureaucracy, ensuring that the various functions of government, from military affairs to religious matters, were managed in an organized and centralized manner.

**259.** (C) A well-structured local administration.
Sher Shah Suri's administrative system for a 'pargana', managed by officers like the Shiqdar (military) and Munsif (civil/revenue), indicates a highly organized and well-structured local administration. This hierarchy allowed for the efficient collection of revenue, the maintenance of law and order, and the resolution of local disputes. This focus on local governance ensured that the central authority remained connected to the grassroots level, contributing to the overall stability and prosperity of the Suri Empire.

**260.** (D) Tax on non-Muslim subjects for protection.
Jaziya is best defined as a poll-tax levied on non-Muslim subjects, known as dhimmis, living under the rule of an Islamic state. It was collected as a payment for the state's protection and as an exemption from the mandatory military service required of Muslim citizens. In medieval India, the imposition of Jaziya varied under different rulers, reflecting changes in the state's fiscal needs and the religious policies of the Sultans and Mughal emperors.

**261.** (C) Lalitaditya
King Lalitaditya Muktapida of the Karkota dynasty of Kashmir is historically documented for his role in defeating Arab invaders in the eighth century. He successfully checked their northward expansion from Sindh, preserving the independence of the Himalayan region. Lalitaditya was a powerful monarch who expanded his empire across Northern India and is also remembered for his patronage of

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monumental architecture, most notably the Martand Sun Temple, which symbolized his imperial glory and devotion.

**262.** (B) Tughlaq dynasty
Timur invaded India in 1398 AD during the reign of the Tughlaq Dynasty, specifically under Sultan Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah Tughlaq. The invasion was catastrophic, resulting in the sack of Delhi and the massacre of a significant portion of its population. The destruction caused by Timur's forces fatally weakened the Tughlaq's authority and left the Delhi Sultanate in a state of terminal decline, eventually leading to its fracturing and the emergence of various regional powers.

**263.** (D) Rana Sanga
Babur's victory at the Battle of Khanwa in 1527 was achieved against the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga of Mewar. This battle was a decisive turning point in the establishment of the Mughal Empire, as it neutralized the most significant indigenous threat to Babur's rule in Northern India. Through the use of superior military tactics, including gunpowder and artillery, Babur's victory secured his position in the heartland and allowed for subsequent Mughal expansion and consolidation.

**264.** (A) Guru Arjan Dev
The Sikh resistance against the Mughal Empire transformed into an armed conflict following the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, in 1606. His execution by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir on charges of supporting Prince Khusrau's rebellion deeply affected the Sikh community. This event led his successor, Guru Hargobind, to adopt a more militarized and defensive stance, beginning a long and significant period of armed struggle between the Sikhs and the Mughal state.

**265.** (C) The Delhi Sultanate (Tughlaq dynasty)
The Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms were the two most prominent regional powers that emerged in Southern and Central India during the fourteenth century, following the decline and weakening of the Delhi Sultanate under the Tughlaq Dynasty. Both empires were founded by former officials of the Sultanate who asserted their independence during the period of political instability. For the next two centuries, these two kingdoms dominated the history of the Deccan through their intense rivalry and cultural achievements.

**266.** (A) Peshwas
The Maratha Empire reached its peak territorial expansion under the leadership of the Peshwas, particularly during the eighteenth century. Starting with Balaji Vishwanath and followed by Baji Rao I and Balaji Baji Rao, the Peshwas oversaw the expansion of Maratha influence across much of Northern, Central, and Southern India. During this period, the Marathas established a vast confederacy that challenged Mughal supremacy and made them the most dominant political and military force on the Indian subcontinent.

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**267.** (D) A system of revenue assignments
A key aspect of the Turkish administration in the Delhi Sultanate was the 'Ikta' system, which was a mechanism of revenue assignments. Under this system, the Sultan granted land revenue rights from specific territories to military and civil officials (Iqtadars) in lieu of a cash salary. The Iqtadars were responsible for maintaining law and order and providing military support, while the revenue they collected was used to sustain themselves and their troops, ensuring decentralized imperial control.

**268.** (B) Ayagar and Nayankara systems
The administrative system of the Vijayanagara Empire is well-known for its unique Ayagar and Nayankara systems. The Ayagar system was a form of local village administration involving a group of twelve hereditary officials who managed village affairs. The Nayankara system involved the king granting land (Amaram) to military chiefs (Nayakas) in return for military service and local governance. Together, these systems provided a structured yet decentralized framework for managing the empire's vast and diverse territories in Southern India.

**269.** (C) The status and salary of the mansabdar.
In the Mughal Mansabdari system, the 'Zat' rank was a critical numerical value that determined the personal status and relative salary of an official within the imperial hierarchy. It served as a measure of the individual's importance and position in the administrative structure. While the 'Sawar' rank specified military obligations,

the 'Zat' rank was primarily focused on defining the official's personal grade, prestige, and the corresponding financial remuneration they received from the state.

**270.** (D) Rajputs
The rituals of 'Jouhar' and 'Saka' are deeply ingrained in the historical and martial traditions of the Rajputs. 'Jouhar' was the practice of mass self-immolation by women to preserve their honor when defeat was certain, while 'Saka' was the final, suicidal charge of male warriors into the battlefield to fight until their last breath. Together, these practices symbolized the extreme commitment to honor, valor, and independence that characterized Rajput society throughout the medieval period of Indian history.

**271.** (A) Bappa Rawal
Bappa Rawal is the legendary eighth-century king of the Guhil dynasty of Mewar who offered strong and successful resistance to early Arab invasions from Sindh. According to tradition, he led a coalition of regional rulers to defeat the Arab forces, thereby halting their advance into Northern India. His military prowess and leadership established Mewar as a major center of power and defense, securing his legacy as a prominent figure in the history of Rajput resistance.

**272.** (B) Dahir
Muhammad bin Qasim's invasion of Sindh in 712 AD targeted the kingdom of King Dahir, the last Hindu ruler of the Brahman dynasty. The conflict culminated in the Battle of Aror, where Dahir fought valiantly but was eventually defeated and killed. This victory allowed the Arabs to establish their first major administrative and political presence in the Indian subcontinent, marking a significant turning point in the early medieval history of the Indus valley and the broader region.

**273.** (B) Ghori sought empire while Ghazni sought plunder.
A fundamental difference between the Indian invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori lay in their long-term objectives. Mahmud of Ghazni conducted numerous raids primarily to plunder wealth from temples and cities to support his Central Asian realm. In contrast, Muhammad Ghori's campaigns were strategically focused on the permanent territorial conquest and the establishment of a lasting Muslim empire in Northern India. Ghori's victories laid the foundation for the subsequent Delhi Sultanate and continuous rule.

**274.** (A) Tughlaq dynasty
The Saiyad Dynasty, which ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1414 to 1451 AD, came to power following the collapse of the Tughlaq Dynasty's authority. The Tughlaqs had been fatally weakened by the devastating invasion of Timur in 1398. Khizr Khan, the founder of the Saiyad Dynasty, took control of Delhi and established a rule that was largely restricted to the surrounding areas, representing a period of relative political weakness and instability before the rise of the Lodis.

**275.** (C) The Afghans in the east
Babur fought the Battle of Ghaghara in 1529 against a confederacy of eastern Afghan chiefs, which included Mahmud Lodi and was supported by the Sultan of Bengal. This battle was the third and final major military engagement of Babur in India. His victory at the confluence of the Ganges and Ghaghara rivers eliminated the last significant organized resistance to his authority in the heartland of Northern India, thereby securing the foundations of the Mughal Empire.

**276.** (D) Akbar
The resistance of the Gond queen Rani Durgavati was directed against the expansionist forces of the Mughal Emperor Akbar. In 1564, a Mughal army commanded by Asaf Khan invaded her kingdom of Garha-Katanga. Rani Durgavati led her troops with great valor on the battlefield but was eventually overwhelmed by the superior Mughal forces. Her heroic defense and refusal to surrender made her a legendary figure in Indian history and a symbol of resistance against Mughal expansion.

**277.** (C) Five
The disintegration of the Bahmani Kingdom in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries resulted in the emergence of five independent states, known collectively as the Deccan Sultanates. These were the Adil Shahi of Bijapur, the Qutb Shahi of Golconda, the Nizam Shahi of Ahmednagar, the Barid Shahi of Bidar, and

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Gangetic plains, preserving the independence of the regional Indian kingdoms for several decades.

**293.** (C) Slave dynasty
The Khalji Dynasty came to power in 1290 AD by overthrowing the last effective rulers of the Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty. Jalal-ud-din Firoz Khalji, the founder, led a movement among the nobility that challenged the dominance of the older Turkic elite. This transition, often referred to as the 'Khalji Revolution', marked a significant shift in the administration of the Delhi Sultanate, leading to greater territorial expansion and administrative centralization under his nephew and successor, Alauddin Khalji.

**294.** (B) Mughal Empire
The First Battle of Panipat in 1526 was a watershed event that led to the decisive end of the Lodi Dynasty and the foundation of the Mughal Empire. Babur, the ruler of Kabul, used superior military tactics, including the effective use of artillery and gunpowder, to defeat the much larger army of Ibrahim Lodi. This victory secured Babur's control over Delhi and Agra, marking the beginning of the Mughal era, which would dominate the Indian subcontinent for several centuries.

**295.** (D) Aurangzeb
The resistances from the Jats, Sikhs, and Satnamis were significant internal challenges faced by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. These rebellions were triggered by a combination of factors, including high land revenue demands, agrarian distress, and resentment toward the emperor's more orthodox religious and administrative policies. These frequent uprisings in Northern India and the Punjab drained the imperial treasury, destabilized regional administration, and contributed to the long-term weakening of the Mughal central authority during his lengthy reign.

**296.** (A) Tungabhadra
Hampi, the magnificent capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, was strategically located on the southern banks of the Tungabhadra River in modern-day Karnataka. The city's location in a rugged, boulder-strewn landscape provided excellent natural defenses, while the river served as a vital source for irrigation and urban water supply. Hampi grew into one of the largest and most prosperous cities of the medieval world, serving as the political and cultural heart of the empire until its destruction following the Battle of Talikota.

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**297.** (C) Shivaji's coronation at Raigad
The formal establishment of 'Hindvi Swaraj' was marked by the coronation of Shivaji at the fort of Raigad in June 1674. During this grand ceremony, he assumed the title of 'Chhatrapati' and was recognized as a sovereign Hindu monarch. This event was a definitive assertion of political independence from both the Mughal Empire and the Deccan Sultanates. It legitimized Shivaji's authority as a king, established a new royal dynasty, and formalized the administrative structure of the sovereign Maratha state.

**298.** (A) Efficient and centralized governance.
The administration of Sher Shah Suri is a classic example of highly efficient and centralized governance. Despite his short reign, he established a sophisticated system of land revenue, a new standardized currency, and a robust infrastructure network. His administration prioritized the direct management of local units, such as the pargana and sarkar, ensuring that imperial orders were implemented effectively at all levels. These centralized reforms were so successful that they were later adopted and refined by the Mughal Emperor Akbar.

**299.** (D) To maintain a fixed number of troops for the king.
In the Vijayanagara administrative system, 'Amaram' grants were land assignments given to military chiefs, known as Nayakas, specifically to maintain a fixed number of troops for the royal service. The Nayakas were expected to provide soldiers, horses, and elephants to the king whenever required for military campaigns. In exchange for this obligation, they collected revenue from the assigned lands and held administrative and judicial authority within their regions, ensuring the empire's military readiness and provincial governance.

**300.** (B) Rank, salary, and military obligation.
The concept of 'Mansab' was the structural foundation of the Mughal administrative and military organization. Each official held a rank

military conflict, particularly in the Deccan. Shah Jahan launched several major campaigns to bring the independent Deccan Sultanates under imperial control. These wars resulted in the formal annexation of Ahmadnagar and the imposition of Mughal suzerainty over Bijapur and Golconda, laying the groundwork for the even more prolonged and exhausting Deccan conflicts of his successor, Aurangzeb.

**286.** (D) The Raichur Doab
The primary point of contention and the most frequent cause of war between the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms was the control over the Raichur Doab. This fertile tract of land, situated between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, was highly valued for its rich agricultural yield and strategic location. For nearly two centuries, both regional powers fought intensely to dominate this region, which served as a major source of economic revenue and a key geopolitical prize in the Deccan.

**287.** (A) Baji Rao I
The Maratha Empire's expansionist policy was most vigorously and successfully pursued by Peshwa Baji Rao I. During his tenure from 1720 to 1740, he led several rapid military campaigns across Northern and Central India, significantly extending Maratha influence into Malwa, Gujarat, and Bundelkhand. His aggressive strategy, known as "Hindu Pad Padshahi", aimed to challenge Mughal authority and established the Marathas as the preeminent military and political power on the Indian subcontinent, marking a peak in their expansion.

**288.** (B) Finance and revenue department (Diwan-i-Wizarat)
In the administrative hierarchy of the Turkish Sultans of Delhi, the 'Wazir' was the head of the Diwan-i-Wizarat, the central department responsible for finance and revenue. The Wazir was the most senior administrative official and played a critical role in overseeing the state's fiscal policies, tax collection, and expenditures. The efficiency and power of the Wazir were essential for maintaining the Sultanate's financial stability and supporting its large military establishment and centralized bureaucracy during its period of dominance.

**289.** (B) Hereditary head Sardeshmukhs of Maharashtra.
Sardeshmukhi was an additional ten percent tax claimed by the Marathas on the grounds that the Chhatrapati was the 'Sardeshmukh' or the hereditary supreme head of all the Deshmukhs in Maharashtra. This levy was collected from territories not under direct Maratha control, alongside the Chauth. By claiming Sardeshmukhi, the Maratha rulers not only increased their revenue but also asserted their traditional and legitimate authority as the regional sovereigns over the existing local landholding nobility and their jurisdictions.

**290.** (A) A subordinate feudal chieftain in South India.
A 'Polygar' was a subordinate feudal chieftain or territorial governor in medieval and early modern South India. Originally appointed under the Vijayanagara Empire to maintain local order and provide military service, they governed small territories from fortified centers. Polygars were responsible for revenue collection and local administration. They played a significant role in regional power dynamics and were known for their fierce and prolonged resistance against the subsequent expansion of both the Carnatic Nawabs and British colonial forces.

**291.** (C) Arab invasion of Sindh
The sacrifice of King Dahir occurred in 712 AD during the Arab invasion of Sindh, led by the Umayyad general Muhammad bin Qasim. Dahir, the final ruler of the Brahman dynasty, was defeated and killed on the battlefield during the Battle of Aror while defending his kingdom. His death marked the end of indigenous rule in the region and led to the establishment of the first major Islamic administrative and political presence within the Indian subcontinent, specifically in the lower Indus valley.

**292.** (D) A general of Mahmud of Ghazni
Raja Suheldeva is traditionally celebrated for his decisive victory over the invading forces of a general under Mahmud of Ghazni. Historical accounts, often blended with legend, state that Suheldeva led a coalition of local kings to defeat Salar Masud, a nephew and prominent general of Mahmud, at the Battle of Bahraich in the early eleventh century. This victory halted the advance of the Ghaznavid armies into the central

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(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**16.** Which of the following pairs of medieval literary work and its author is incorrectly matched?
(A) Tulsidas - Ramcharitmanas
(B) Kabir - Padmavat
(C) Abul Fazl - Akbarnama
(D) Krishnadevaraya - Amuktamalyada

**17.** The establishment of the 'Khalsa' in 1699 was a pivotal event in Sikh history. Who was the Guru responsible for this?
(A) Guru Nanak
(B) Guru Gobind Singh
(C) Guru Arjan Dev
(D) Guru Tegh Bahadur

**18.** What was the primary purpose of the 'Charbagh' style in Mughal architecture?
(A) To represent a paradise garden, dividing the area into four quadrants with water channels.
(B) To provide a strong defensive structure for the main building.
(C) To create a public space for royal audiences and announcements.
(D) To serve as a marketplace within the palace complex.

**19.** Arrange the following Bhakti saints in chronological order of their appearance:
1. Ramanujacharya
2. Shankaracharya
3. Kabir
4. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 2, 1, 3, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 3, 1, 4
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

**20.** Identify the correct statement about the economic life in the Vijayanagar Empire.
(A) The economy was primarily pastoral with very limited agriculture.
(B) The state's revenue was largely dependent on tributes from nomadic tribes.
(C) Foreign trade was prohibited to maintain economic self-sufficiency.
(D) Agriculture was the mainstay, and the state invested in large-scale irrigation projects like tanks and dams.

**21.** Which Mughal emperor's religious policy saw a marked shift towards Islamic orthodoxy, including the reimposition of Jizya and the destruction of some temples?
(A) Jahangir
(B) Shahjahan
(C) Aurangzeb
(D) Akbar

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**22.** What does 'Shaivism' as a Bhakti sect primarily revolve around?
(A) The worship of Goddess Shakti in her various forms.
(B) The devotion to and worship of Lord Shiva.
(C) The monotheistic belief in a formless God.
(D) The veneration of Lord Vishnu and his incarnations.

**23.** Match the Term in List I with the Meaning in List II.
List I: (Term)
P. Tanka
Q. Banjaras
R. Hundi
S. Dastur
List II: (Meaning in Medieval Economy)
1. A bill of exchange or credit note
2. A silver coin standardized by the Delhi Sultans
3. Nomadic trading communities specializing in bulk transport
4. Schedule of revenue rates
(A) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

**24.** The concept of 'Purdah' (veiling and seclusion of women) in medieval India was:
(A) Practiced by both Hindu and Muslim communities, especially among the upper classes.
(B) Exclusively practiced by Hindu women.
(C) Exclusively practiced by Muslim women.
(D) A practice that was non-existent in medieval India.

that specified their position in the imperial hierarchy, their personal salary, and the number of troops they were required to supply. This centralized system allowed the emperors to manage a diverse nobility and ensure a professional army was available for expansion. It integrated the entire civil and military service into a single, unified structure directly accountable to the Mughal sovereign.

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the Imad Shahi of Berar. These regional powers dominated the political and cultural landscape of the Deccan until they were eventually annexed by the Mughal Empire.

**278.** (B) Shivaji
The establishment of 'Hindvi Swaraj'—a sovereign, independent state free from foreign rule—was the central life's mission of Shivaji, the founder of the Maratha Empire. Shivaji spent his life fighting against the dominance of the Mughal Empire and the Deccan Sultanates to create a self-governed kingdom for the local population. His vision focused on protecting indigenous culture, promoting justice, and ensuring the welfare of all his subjects, establishing a legacy that shaped the course of Indian history.

**279.** (D) The Prime Minister
In Shivaji's administrative system, the 'Peshwa' served as the Prime Minister and was the highest-ranking official in the Ashtapradhan council. The Peshwa was responsible for the overall administration of the kingdom, representing the Chhatrapati in his absence and overseeing the work of the other ministers. While the role was originally a ministerial appointment by merit, it eventually evolved under Shivaji's successors to become the most powerful and hereditary position within the Maratha Empire's leadership structure.

**280.** (A) Land revenue, currency, and communication.
Sher Shah Suri's short but significant reign is notable for its far-reaching reforms in land revenue, currency, and communication. He introduced a systematic revenue assessment based on land measurement and soil fertility. He also issued the first silver 'Rupiya', which became a standard currency, and established an extensive network of roads and rest houses, including the Grand Trunk Road. These innovations greatly improved trade and administration and served as a direct model for the subsequent Mughal government.

**281.** (C) A bill of exchange
The term 'Hundi' in medieval India referred to an indigenous financial instrument that functioned as a bill of exchange. It was used by merchants and traders to transfer large sums of money securely across long distances without the risk of carrying physical cash. The Hundi system was supported by a sophisticated network of indigenous bankers and was essential for facilitating regional and international trade, reflecting the advanced nature of the commercial and credit systems in medieval India.

**282.** (A) Create religious tolerance and harmony.
The 'Sulah-i-kul' policy was an expression of the Mughal Emperor Akbar's effort to create an environment of religious tolerance and social harmony within his vast empire. Translating to 'universal peace', this principle encouraged mutual respect among different faiths and integrated diverse ethnic and religious groups into the imperial administration. By promoting Sulah-i-kul, Akbar sought to unify his subjects under a common imperial identity, thereby ensuring the long-term political stability and cultural prosperity of his reign.

**283.** (D) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq is known for having established a large and specialized slave department known as the 'Diwan-i-Bandagan'. During his reign, he amassed over 180,000 slaves, many of whom were trained in various crafts and administrative roles to serve the state. While this department was intended to provide a loyal workforce and military support, the growing influence and numbers of these slaves later became a source of political instability within the Delhi Sultanate after his death.

**284.** (B) Mughal Empire
Nadir Shah's sack of Delhi in 1739 was a catastrophic event that dealt a fatal blow to the Mughal Empire. The invasion resulted in the decisive defeat of the Mughal army and the systematic looting of the capital's immense wealth, including iconic treasures like the Peacock Throne. This event not only devastated the imperial treasury but also shattered the prestige and authority of the Mughal emperor, exposing the empire's internal weaknesses and accelerating its eventual collapse and fragmentation.

**285.** (C) Deccan
While the reign of Shah Jahan is often celebrated as the golden age of Mughal architecture and culture, it was also a period of continuous

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(D) The first five Sikh Gurus and the ninth Guru.

**8.** Which of the following terms refers to the hereditary grant of land and its revenues, a common feature of the land revenue system in medieval India?
(A) Jagir
(B) Ijaradari
(C) Khalisa
(D) Inam

**9.** Match the Bhakti Saint in List I with the Associated Philosophy/Sect in List II.
List I: (Bhakti Saint)
P. Shankaracharya
Q. Ramanujacharya
R. Vallabhacharya
S. Kabir
List II: (Associated Philosophy/Sect)
1. Pushtimarg
2. Nirguna Bhakti
3. Advaita Vedanta
4. Vishishtadvaita
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**10.** Which one of the following was a prominent form of entertainment in medieval Indian society, often enjoyed by royalty and commoners alike?
(A) Chaupar (a traditional board game)
(B) Modern cinema and film screenings
(C) Electronic games and video systems
(D) European-style theatrical opera

**11.** Consider the following statements regarding Sufism in India:
1. Sufism was broadly divided into 'ba-shara' (those who followed Islamic law) and 'be-shara' (those who did not).
2. The Chishti silsila, one of the most prominent orders, actively participated in state politics and accumulated wealth.
3. The concept of 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud' (Unity of Being) was a central philosophical idea for many Sufis.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**12.** The religious policy of which Mughal emperor is best described by the principle of 'Sulh-i-Kul' or universal peace and harmony?
(A) Babur
(B) Akbar
(C) Shahjahan
(D) Aurangzeb

**13.** Which of the following best defines 'Maktabs' and 'Madrasas' in the educational system of medieval India?
(A) Maktabs were centers for vocational training, while Madrasas focused on religious studies.
(B) Maktabs were exclusively for the children of nobility, while Madrasas were for commoners.
(C) Maktabs were centers for primary education, while Madrasas were institutions of higher learning.
(D) Maktabs and Madrasas were identical institutions with different names in different regions.

**14.** The term 'Khud-kashta' in the context of medieval Indian agriculture referred to:
(A) Landless agricultural laborers.
(B) Peasants who cultivated land on a temporary or contractual basis in other villages.
(C) The village headman responsible for revenue collection.
(D) Peasants who cultivated their own land in the village where they resided.

**15.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The reign of Jahangir is considered the zenith of Mughal painting.
Reason (R): Jahangir was a keen connoisseur of art and had a personal atelier of painters, encouraging specialization in portraiture and nature studies.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

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# CHAPTER 06

# Medieval Indian Social, Economic, Religious and Cultural Life

**1.** Which of the following best describes the condition of Hindu women in medieval Indian society regarding property rights?
(A) They possessed full and absolute rights to inherit and dispose of all ancestral property.
(B) They held limited rights, primarily to 'stridhana', which consisted of gifts received at marriage.
(C) They were strictly prohibited by law from owning or inheriting any form of property.
(D) Their legal property rights were equal to those held by men in every social aspect.

**2.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Bhakti movement in medieval India was a completely monolithic movement with a single, unified philosophy.
Statement II: Prominent Bhakti saints like Kabir and Guru Nanak emphasized a nirguna (formless) conception of God, while others like Tulsidas and Meera Bai focused on saguna (with form) devotion.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**3.** In the context of Mughal architecture, what does the term 'pietra dura' refer to?
(A) The use of red sandstone for building facades.
(B) The construction of large, bulbous double domes.
(C) The inlay of precious and semi-precious stones into marble.
(D) The creation of intricate lattice screens (jalis).

**4.** Which of the following was NOT a major school of painting that flourished during the medieval period in India?
(A) Mughal School
(B) Rajasthani School
(C) Pahari School
(D) Company School

**5.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The land revenue system under Akbar, known as the Zabti or Dahsala system, was a significant administrative innovation.
Reason (R): It was based on average produce and average prices over the last ten years, aiming for a more fixed and stable revenue demand.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**6.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding the social life in the Vijayanagar Empire.
(A) The society was rigidly stratified along caste lines.
(B) Women were completely secluded and did not participate in any public or economic life.
(C) The practice of Sati was prevalent, especially among the royal and upper classes.
(D) Temples served as important social and cultural centers.

**7.** The teachings of which Sikh Guru are compiled exclusively in the Adi Granth (Guru Granth Sahib)?
(A) Only Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh.
(B) Every one of the ten historical Sikh Gurus.
(C) The fifth Guru, known as Guru Arjan Dev.

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**25.** Consider the following statements about Mughal-Sikh relations:
1. Guru Arjan Dev's martyrdom occurred during the reign of Jahangir.
2. The relations were consistently hostile from the very beginning of the Mughal empire.
3. Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed under the orders of Aurangzeb.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**26.** The philosophy of 'Vishishtadvaita' or qualified monism, which was influential in the Vaishnava Bhakti tradition, was propounded by:
(A) Ramanujacharya
(B) Shankaracharya
(C) Sant Gyaneshwara
(D) Madhvacharya

**27.** Which of the following was a major item of export from India during the medieval period?
(A) Heavy industrial machinery and tools
(B) Modern computer and software products
(C) Refined petroleum and chemical items
(D) Textiles, various spices, and indigo

**28.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The condition of women in Muslim society during the medieval period allowed for divorce and remarriage of widows, which was often difficult in contemporary Hindu society.
Statement II: Muslim women were legally entitled to a share in the inheritance of their parents' property.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**29.** The prominent Marathi Bhakti saint who wrote a famous commentary on the Bhagavad Gita known as 'Gyaneshwari' was:
(A) Tukaram
(B) Eknath
(C) Sant Gyaneshwara
(D) Ramananda

**30.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Urbanization witnessed significant growth during the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal periods.
Reason (R): The establishment of a centralized administration, growth of trade and commerce, and the concentration of nobility and artisans in administrative centers fueled the growth of towns and cities.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**31.** Identify the architectural style characterized by sloping walls, massive circular bastions, and the use of 'batter' or inward slope, often associated with the Tughlaq dynasty.
(A) Tughlaq style
(B) Charbagh style
(C) Pietra dura style
(D) Dravidian style

**32.** Who among the following Bhakti saints was a disciple of Ramananda and is known for his Dohas (couplets) that challenged religious orthodoxy and caste distinctions?
(A) Tulsidas
(B) Kabir
(C) Meerabai
(D) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

**33.** Which of the following taxes levied in medieval India was a religious tax on non-Muslims?
(A) Zakat
(B) Jizya
(C) Kharaj
(D) Khums

**34.** Arrange the following Mughal emperors in the correct chronological order of their reigns:
1. Shahjahan
2. Humayun
3. Jahangir
4. Akbar

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 1, 2, 4, 3

and teachings in the vernacular languages of the masses like Braj, Awadhi, and Marathi, rather than in classical Sanskrit, to make their message more accessible.

(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**88.** Which among the following was a key feature of the economic status of the Vijayanagar empire?
(A) The issuance of a large number of gold coins (Varahas) and a flourishing overseas trade.
(B) A barter system was the only means of transaction, with no coinage.
(C) The state discouraged foreign trade to protect local artisans.
(D) The economy was entirely state-controlled with no private enterprise.

**89.** Match the Concept/Term in List I with the Associated Saint/Tradition in List II.
List I: (Concept/Term)
P. Sulh-i-Kul
Q. Wahdat-ul-Wujud
R. Advaita Vedanta
S. The Khalsa
List II: (Associated Saint/Tradition)
1. Shankaracharya
2. Guru Gobind Singh
3. Ibn Arabi (popularized in India by Sufis)
4. Akbar
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

**90.** The 'Ashta Pradhan' council was an administrative feature of the Maratha administration under Shivaji, but a group of eight great poets, the 'Ashtadiggajas', adorned the court of which medieval ruler?
(A) Krishnadevaraya
(B) Akbar
(C) Rajaraja Chola
(D) Alauddin Khilji

**91.** The Mughal school of painting reached its climax under Jahangir, who was particularly fond of and encouraged:
(A) Abstract and geometric patterns.
(B) Large-scale mural paintings on fort walls.
(C) Manuscript illumination with calligraphic designs only.
(D) Realistic portraits and detailed studies of flora and fauna.

**92.** Consider the following statements about the condition of peasants in medieval India:
1. Peasants were a homogenous group with equal land holdings and social status.
2. The state's land revenue demand was often high, sometimes reaching up to one-third or half of the produce.
3. Peasants had no right to abandon their land, even in times of famine or excessive taxation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 2 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**93.** The teaching of the Sikh Gurus is fundamentally based on:
(A) Polytheistic worship and idol veneration.
(B) Strict asceticism and renunciation of worldly life.
(C) Devotion to one formless God and the equality of all humankind.
(D) The division of society into a rigid caste hierarchy.

**94.** Which of the following best describes the social structure of Hindu society in the medieval period?
(A) A completely fluid system with high social mobility.
(B) A society governed by the varna system, but with the proliferation of numerous jatis (castes) and sub-castes.
(C) A binary society divided only into Brahmins and Shudras.
(D) The complete collapse of the caste system under the influence of Islam.

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(C) Promoting military jihad as the only path to salvation.
(D) Seeking a direct, personal experience of God through love and devotion.

**44.** Read the following scenario and answer the question that follows:
*A peasant in a Mughal province cultivates a piece of land which belongs to the village community, but he resides in a different village. He pays revenue to the state for the land he tills. Based on the agrarian classifications of the period, this peasant would be best identified as:*
(A) A Khud-kashta
(B) A Pahi-kashta
(C) A Zamindar
(D) A Muzarian

**45.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur during Aurangzeb's reign was a turning point in Mughal-Sikh relations.
Reason (R): It led to the militarization of the Sikhs under his son and successor, Guru Gobind Singh, and the creation of the Khalsa to resist Mughal persecution.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**46.** Who among the following was a prominent female Bhakti saint from Rajasthan, renowned for her devotional songs dedicated to Lord Krishna?
(A) Sant Gyaneshwara
(B) Tulsidas
(C) Eknath
(D) Meerabai

**47.** The development of regional languages like Braj Bhasha and Awadhi received a major impetus during the medieval period primarily due to:
(A) The composition of Bhakti and Sufi literature in the vernacular to reach the common people.
(B) The official patronage of the Delhi Sultans who declared these dialects as state languages.
(C) The decline of classical Sanskrit and Persian as the primary literary languages.
(D) The influence of European maritime traders and religious missionaries in coastal regions.

**48.** Identify the correct pair regarding Bhakti saints and their primary region of influence.
(A) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu - Maharashtra
(B) Meerabai - Rajasthan
(C) Sant Gyaneshwara - Bengal
(D) Kabir - South India

**49.** What was 'Zakat' in the tax system of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals?
(A) A religious tithe obligatory for affluent Muslims, used for charitable purposes.
(B) A tax on the agricultural produce of non-Muslim peasants.
(C) A customs duty levied on imported goods.
(D) A tax levied on land for irrigation purposes.

**50.** Consider the following statements regarding the development of music in medieval India:
1. Dhrupad was a major form of Hindustani classical music that developed during this period.
2. The invention of the Sitar and Tabla is often attributed to Amir Khusrau.
3. Music was strictly forbidden at the court of Emperor Akbar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**51.** The famous 'Gopurams' (ornate monumental towers at the entrance of a temple) are a characteristic feature of the architecture developed under which empire?
(A) Gupta Empire
(B) Mughal Empire
(C) Vijayanagar Empire
(D) Mauryan Empire

**52.** The philosophy of Shankaracharya, which had a profound impact on Hindu thought, is known as:
(A) Dvaita (Dualism)

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(C) Jahangir
(D) Shahjahan

**71.** Who among the following was a prominent Sufi saint of the Suhrawardi order, which, unlike the Chishtis, accepted state patronage?
(A) Nizamuddin Auliya
(B) Moinuddin Chishti
(C) Baba Farid
(D) Baha-ud-din Zakariya

**72.** Arrange the following events in Mughal-Sikh relations in chronological order:
1. Execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur
2. Compilation of the Adi Granth
3. Foundation of the Khalsa
4. Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 4, 2, 1, 3
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 1, 2, 4, 3

**73.** The concept of 'Pushtimarg' (The Path of Grace), a school of Vaishnavism focusing on the worship of Krishna, was founded by:
(A) Ramananda
(B) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
(C) Vallabhacharya
(D) Shankaracharya

**74.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Foreign trade flourished under the Mughals, with a favorable balance of trade for India.
Reason (R): India's primary imports were horses, luxury goods, and bullion (gold and silver), while its exports of textiles and spices were in high demand in European and Asian markets.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**75.** Which one of the following was NOT a branch of Shaivism prominent in medieval India?
(A) Pashupata
(B) Kapalika
(C) Kalamukha
(D) Varkari

**76.** The motivation for the educational system in medieval India, particularly the Madrasas, was primarily:
(A) To train individuals for secular scientific research.
(B) To train a class of theologians, jurists, and administrators for the state.
(C) To promote literacy among the entire population, including women.
(D) To teach vocational skills like carpentry and metalwork.

**77.** Match the Literary Work in List I with the Language in List II.
List I: (Literary Work)
P. Ramcharitmanas
Q. Amuktamalyada
R. Guru Granth Sahib
S. Akbarnama
List II: (Language)
1. Persian (Farsi)
2. Gurmukhi/Punjabi
3. Awadhi (Hindi)
4. Telugu
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

**78.** Which of the following statements about the condition of women in Muslim society during medieval India is incorrect?
(A) The 'Purdah' system was more strictly enforced among upper-class women.
(B) Women had the right to 'Mehr' (dower) at the time of marriage.
(C) The remarriage of widows was permitted and practiced.
(D) Women had absolute and equal rights to men in all matters of divorce and inheritance.

**79.** Consider the following statements related to the Bhakti saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu:
1. He was a prominent proponent of Vaishnavism, especially devotion to Krishna, in Bengal.
2. He advocated for Advaita Vedanta philosophy and intellectual debate over

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(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**62.** Identify the incorrect pair of a region and the prominent school of painting associated with it.
(A) Rajasthan - Rajasthani School
(B) Mughal Court - Mughal School
(C) Himalayan Foothills - Pahari School
(D) Deccan Sultanates - Charbagh School

**63.** The devotional songs of the Maharashtrian Bhakti saint Tukaram were primarily addressed to which deity?
(A) Lord Vithoba (a form of Vishnu/Krishna)
(B) Lord Shiva
(C) Goddess Durga
(D) Lord Ganesha

**64.** Consider the following statements regarding the economic conditions under the Mughals:
1. The minting of coins was highly decentralized and lacked any form of standardization.
2. Handicrafts, especially textiles from Bengal, Gujarat, and Coromandel, were a major part of the economy.
3. The means of transport for internal trade relied heavily on bullock carts and river boats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**65.** The religious discussions held by Akbar with leaders of different faiths in the 'Ibadat Khana' (House of Worship) at Fatehpur Sikri led him to formulate the idea of:
(A) Jizya
(B) Din-i-Ilahi
(C) Wahdat-ul-Wujud
(D) Sharia

**66.** What was the most significant contribution of Sant Eknath to Marathi literature and the Bhakti movement?
(A) He wrote a critical edition of the Gyaneshwari, making it accessible.
(B) He founded a new military order.
(C) He led a political rebellion against the Deccan Sultanates.
(D) He translated the Quran into Marathi.

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**67.** The term 'Stridhana' in the context of medieval Hindu society refers to:
(A) The dowry paid by the bride's family to the groom.
(B) The tax levied on women traders.
(C) The property a woman received as gifts over which she had exclusive control.
(D) The inheritance a woman received from her father's ancestral property.

**68.** The architectural development in South India during the medieval period, particularly under Vijayanagar, is best known for:
(A) The construction of massive tombs and mausoleums.
(B) The use of arches and domes as primary features.
(C) The building of fortified cities using red sandstone.
(D) The elaboration of temple complexes with large mandapas and ornate gopurams.

**69.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Sikh scripture, Adi Granth, was compiled by Guru Gobind Singh.
Statement II: The Adi Granth includes the compositions of Sikh Gurus as well as those of Hindu and Muslim saints like Kabir, Ravidas, and Baba Farid.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**70.** The reign of which Mughal emperor witnessed a decline in the quality of painting and a shift in patronage from fine arts towards architecture and orthodox religious pursuits?
(A) Akbar
(B) Aurangzeb

(C) 2, 3, 4, 1
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

**35.** The 'Nayankara system' was a significant administrative and military feature of which kingdom?
(A) Delhi Sultanate
(B) Mughal Empire
(C) Vijayanagar Empire
(D) Bahmani Kingdom

**36.** In the context of medieval Indian clothing, 'Jama' and 'Pajama' were:
(A) Ornaments worn by women.
(B) Types of headgear for men.
(C) Footwear used by soldiers.
(D) Common garments forming part of male attire.

**37.** Consider the following statements regarding the literature of the Vijayanagar Empire:
1. The rulers were great patrons of Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, and Tamil literature.
2. Krishnadevaraya, a prominent ruler, himself authored the Telugu work 'Amuktamalyada'.
3. All literary works produced during this period were exclusively religious in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 3 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**38.** The Shakta religion, a prominent sect in medieval India, centered on the worship of:
(A) Lord Shiva as the supreme being.
(B) The female principle, the Goddess or Devi, as the ultimate reality.
(C) The Sun God as the source of all life.
(D) Ancestral spirits for protection and prosperity.

**39.** The introduction of the Persian wheel ('Saqiya') was a significant development for which sector of the medieval Indian economy?
(A) Textile weaving
(B) Sea transport
(C) Minting of coins
(D) Irrigation in agriculture

**40.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The religious policy of Babur and Humayun was marked by extreme intolerance and persecution of non-Muslims.
Statement II: Both Babur and Humayun were preoccupied with consolidating their empire and generally followed a pragmatic policy of tolerance towards the majority Hindu population.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**41.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement about the life and teachings of Guru Nanak?
(A) He advocated a monotheistic belief in one formless God (Ek Onkar).
(B) He strongly condemned caste distinctions, ritualism, and idol worship.
(C) He promoted the idea of renouncing the world and living as an ascetic.
(D) His teachings emphasized the importance of honest living and sharing with others (Kirat Karo, Naam Japo, Vand Chakko).

**42.** Match the Mughal Emperor in List I with the Associated Architectural Monument in List II.
List I: (Mughal Emperor)
P. Akbar
Q. Shahjahan
R. Jahangir
S. Humayun
List II: (Associated Architectural Monument)
1. Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah
2. Humayun's Tomb
3. Fatehpur Sikri
4. Taj Mahal
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**43.** 'Sufism', the mystical dimension of Islam, originated and developed with the primary aim of:
(A) Gaining political power and establishing a new caliphate.
(B) Formulating a new legal code to replace the Sharia.

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emotional devotion.
3. He popularized the practice of 'Sankirtan', or congregational chanting and dancing in devotion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**80.** What was the 'Nasaq' system in the context of Mughal land revenue administration?
(A) A system based on a ten-year average of produce and prices.
(B) A rough estimate or valuation of revenue demand, also known as group assessment.
(C) The division of crops between the state and the peasant in fixed proportion.
(D) The farming out of revenue collection rights to the highest bidder.

**81.** In the context of cultural synthesis in medieval India, a historian would find the compositions within the Guru Granth Sahib particularly significant because they:
(A) Include the teachings of both Hindu and Muslim saints, reflecting an inclusive spiritual tradition.
(B) Demonstrate the absolute political and military supremacy achieved by the historical Sikh Gurus.
(C) Are written exclusively in classical Sanskrit, demonstrating a revival of ancient traditional languages.
(D) Focus solely on providing strict military codes and behavioral conduct for members of the Khalsa.

**82.** The term 'Silsila' in the context of Sufism refers to:
(A) A spiritual genealogy or order, linking a Sufi saint to his predecessors.
(B) A book of Sufi poetry and philosophical discourse.
(C) The practice of musical recitation (Sama).
(D) The charitable kitchen (langar) run at a Sufi shrine.

**83.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The social structure of the Vijayanagar Empire was highly egalitarian, with no caste distinctions.
Statement II: Foreign travelers like Nicolo Conti and Abdur Razzak noted the existence of a rigid caste system and the practice of Sati in Vijayanagar society.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**84.** The religious policy of Shahjahan is often seen as a transition between Akbar's liberalism and Aurangzeb's orthodoxy. Which action reflects this shift?
(A) The abolition of the pilgrimage tax on Hindus.
(B) The creation of a new syncretic religion, Din-i-Ilahi.
(C) The holding of regular inter-faith debates at the Ibadat Khana.
(D) The order to demolish newly constructed Hindu temples.

**85.** Which of the following is the best description of the 'Varkari' sect, prominent in Maharashtra?
(A) A militant Shaivite sect known for extreme ascetic practices.
(B) A philosophical school focused on Advaita Vedanta.
(C) A Vaishnava devotional tradition centered on the annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur to worship Vithoba.
(D) A Sufi order that integrated into the local culture of Maharashtra.

**86.** The famous Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri was built by Akbar to commemorate his victory over:
(A) Bengal
(B) Gujarat
(C) Mewar
(D) Deccan

**87.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The Bhakti movement played a significant role in the development of regional languages.
Reason (R): Bhakti saints composed their hymns

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List II: (Silsila/Order)
1. Naqshbandi
2. Chishti
3. Suhrawardi
4. Chishti

(A) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

**105.** The primary language of administration and high culture in the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire was:
(A) Arabic
(B) Turkish
(C) Persian (Farsi)
(D) Sanskrit

**106.** Consider the following statements regarding the art of painting in the Vijayanagar Empire:
1. The art was primarily focused on secular themes like courtly life and portraiture.
2. The murals at Lepakshi and Hampi are prominent examples of Vijayanagar painting.
3. The style shows a continuation of Chalukyan and Hoysala traditions, with a focus on religious narratives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**107.** The creation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh involved an initiation ceremony and the adoption of the 'Five Ks'. Which of the following is NOT one of the 'Five Ks'?
(A) Kesh (uncut hair)
(B) Kangha (comb)
(C) Kirpan (sword)
(D) Kirtan (devotional singing)

**108.** Which medieval ruler's land revenue system involved the measurement of land, classification based on fertility, and the fixation of revenue in cash based on average yields and prices (the Dahsala system)?
(A) Alauddin Khilji
(B) Akbar
(C) Sher Shah Suri
(D) Aurangzeb

**109.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The caste system in medieval Hindu society became less rigid and more flexible due to the influence of Bhakti and Sufi movements.
Statement II: While Bhakti and Sufi saints preached against caste discrimination, the overall social structure remained largely hierarchical and caste-based.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**110.** Read the following scenario and answer the question that follows:
*An artisan in a Mughal 'karkhana' is tasked with creating a marble screen with intricate floral patterns inlaid with carnelian, lapis lazuli, and jasper. This specific decorative technique is known as:*
(A) Latticework (Jali)
(B) Arabesque
(C) Fresco painting
(D) Pietra dura

**111.** The 'Abhangas', a form of devotional poetry, are most closely associated with the Bhakti saints of which region?
(A) Bengal
(B) Punjab
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Maharashtra

**112.** The main cause for the initial conflict between Guru Arjan Dev and the Mughal emperor Jahangir was:
(A) The Guru's alleged support for Jahangir's rebellious son, Khusrau.
(B) Guru Arjan Dev's refusal to pay the Jizya tax.
(C) A dispute over the compilation of the Adi Granth.
(D) The Guru's attempt to establish a separate Sikh state.

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**95.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The architectural style of the Vijayanagar Empire was a completely independent development with no influence from previous South Indian styles.
Statement II: Vijayanagar architecture continued and elaborated upon the traditions of the Cholas, Pandyas, and Hoysalas, particularly in temple construction.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**96.** The Sufi practice of 'Sama', which was a point of controversy for orthodox theologians, refers to:
(A) The act of fasting during the month of Ramadan.
(B) The recitation of musical and poetic performances to induce a spiritual state.
(C) The pilgrimage to Mecca.
(D) The giving of alms to the poor.

**97.** Sant Singaji, a revered saint in the Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh, belonged to which tradition of Bhakti?
(A) Saguna devotion to Krishna
(B) Nirguna devotion, emphasizing a formless God
(C) Shakta tradition of goddess worship
(D) Shaivite asceticism

**98.** The 'double dome' was a significant architectural feature introduced in India during the medieval period. Its primary purpose was:
(A) To create a grand and imposing exterior silhouette while maintaining a proportionate ceiling for the interior room.
(B) To provide an extra layer of defense against cannon fire.
(C) To serve as a water reservoir for the palace complex.
(D) To symbolize the dual nature of the ruler as both a spiritual and temporal head.

**99.** In medieval Indian trade, 'Hundis' were used extensively as:
(A) A type of ocean-going ship.
(B) A form of currency minted in copper.
(C) Instruments of credit and remittance, similar to modern bills of exchange.
(D) A tax paid by merchants at city gates.

**100.** The Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's religious policies included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The reimposition of Jizya.
(B) The discontinuation of the practice of 'jharokha-darshan'.
(C) The banning of music at the imperial court.
(D) The patronage and construction of many new Hindu temples.

**101.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Trade and commerce, both internal and foreign, were significant components of the medieval Indian economy.
Reason (R): The political stability provided by large empires like the Mughals, coupled with a well-developed network of roads, sarais, and a standard currency, facilitated trade.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**102.** Which Bhakti saint is credited with composing the 'Ramcharitmanas', a retelling of the Ramayana in the Awadhi dialect that became immensely popular?
(A) Kabir
(B) Tulsidas
(C) Ramananda
(D) Surdas

**103.** The term 'Jama' in the context of Mughal ornaments referred to a type of:
(A) Necklace
(B) Turban ornament
(C) Earring
(D) Gown or coat

**104.** Match the Sufi Saint in List I with the Silsila/ Order in List II.
List I: (Sufi Saint)
P. Moinuddin Chishti
Q. Baha-ud-din Zakariya
R. Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi
S. Nizamuddin Auliya

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(B) Vishishtadvaita (Qualified Monism)
(C) Shuddhadvaita (Pure Non-dualism)
(D) Advaita (Non-dualism)

**53.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The food habits in medieval India were uniform across all social strata and regions.
Statement II: There was a significant difference in the diet of the rich and the poor, with the nobility consuming a wide variety of rich dishes, while the common people's diet was simple and based on local produce.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**54.** The religious policy of Jahangir can be best characterized as:
(A) A radical departure from Akbar's policy of tolerance.
(B) Largely a continuation of Akbar's liberal policies, though with some individual instances of orthodoxy.
(C) A systematic persecution of all non-Muslims.
(D) The complete abolition of Islam as the state religion.

**55.** Arrange the following Sikh Gurus in the correct chronological order of their Guruship:
1. Guru Arjan Dev
2. Guru Hargobind
3. Guru Ram Das
4. Guru Angad Dev

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 4, 3, 1, 2
(B) 3, 4, 1, 2
(C) 4, 1, 3, 2
(D) 2, 4, 3, 1

**56.** The practice of 'Jauhar' in medieval Hindu society, particularly among Rajputs, referred to:
(A) The mass self-immolation of women to avoid capture and dishonor by enemies.
(B) A woman's right to choose her husband.
(C) A ritual of worshipping the family deity.
(D) The adoption of a male heir by a childless ruler.

**57.** Which of the following was NOT a major trading port on the western coast of India during the medieval period?
(A) Surat
(B) Calicut
(C) Tamralipti
(D) Cambay

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**58.** The Chishti Sufi order was founded in India by whom?
(A) Moinuddin Chishti
(B) Nizamuddin Auliya
(C) Baba Farid
(D) Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki

**59.** Match the Tax/Term in List I with the Description in List II.
List I: (Tax/Term)
P. Kharaj
Q. Khums
R. Khalisa
S. Batai
List II: (Description)
1. State's share of the war booty
2. Land revenue tax on agricultural land
3. A system of crop-sharing
4. Lands whose revenue was directly collected for the imperial treasury
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

**60.** The development of 'karkhanas' or royal workshops under the Delhi Sultans and Mughals was primarily to:
(A) Provide employment to the rural population.
(B) Manufacture and supply luxury goods and articles for the needs of the court and army.
(C) Serve as centers for primary education.
(D) Function as prisons for political offenders.

**61.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Sant Ravidas, a Bhakti saint from the leather-working (chamar) community, challenged the caste-based social hierarchy.
Reason (R): The Bhakti movement, in general, provided a platform for voices from lower castes to articulate their spiritual experiences and critique social inequalities.

**113.** Which of the following accurately describes the development of architecture of North India under the Mughals?
(A) A synthesis of Persian, Central Asian, and indigenous Indian architectural traditions.
(B) A complete rejection of Indian styles in favor of purely Persian designs.
(C) The exclusive use of wood and brick, avoiding stone and marble.
(D) A focus on small, simple structures with minimal ornamentation.

**114.** The term 'Pahi-kashta' refers to which class of peasants in medieval India?
(A) Peasants who owned the land they tilled.
(B) Landless laborers who worked for wages.
(C) Village headmen who were also cultivators.
(D) Non-resident cultivators who tilled land in a village other than their own.

**115.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The Vijayanagar rulers were great patrons of art and literature.
Reason (R): The reign of Krishnadevaraya is considered a golden age of Telugu literature, with his court being adorned by the 'Ashtadiggajas'.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**116.** The religious policy of Humayun was generally characterized by:
(A) A pragmatic and tolerant approach, influenced by his personal beliefs and political necessities.
(B) Strict adherence to Sunni orthodoxy and persecution of Shias.
(C) The imposition of Jizya on all non-Muslims for the first time.
(D) The active promotion of Sufi mysticism as the state religion.

**117.** Identify the correct statement regarding Muslim society in medieval India.
(A) It was divided based on ethnicity (Turks, Afghans, Persians) and a distinction between foreign-born (Ashraf) and indigenous converts (Ajlaf).
(B) It was a monolithic and egalitarian community with no internal divisions.
(C) The concept of caste was completely absent among Indian Muslim converts.
(D) All Muslims, regardless of their background, had equal access to high administrative posts.

**118.** The Shankta religion, focused on the worship of the Goddess, has its origins and development rooted in:
(A) Pre-Vedic and non-Aryan folk traditions that were later assimilated into mainstream Hinduism.
(B) Exclusively in Vedic texts and rituals.
(C) The teachings of the Buddha.
(D) The mystical traditions of Central Asian Sufism.

**119.** Match the Architectural Feature in List I with the Prime Example/Association in List II.
List I: (Architectural Feature)
P. Pietra Dura
Q. Double Dome
R. Charbagh
S. Gopuram
List II: (Prime Example/Association)
1. Humayun's Tomb Garden
2. Meenakshi Temple, Madurai
3. Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah
4. Humayun's Tomb (structure)
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

**120.** Which of the following was a significant means of transport for bulk goods in internal trade during the medieval period, often undertaken by nomadic communities like the Banjaras?
(A) Large caravans of bullock carts
(B) Railways
(C) Air freight
(D) Trucks and lorries

**121.** Consider the following statements about Aurangzeb's religious policy:
1. He completely banned the celebration of all Hindu festivals throughout the empire.
2. He re-imposed the Jizya, a poll tax on non-

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1. The Zabti or Dahsala system was based on measurement of land and average produce.
2. The Batai system involved sharing the actual crop between the state and the peasant.
3. The Nasaq system was a method of group assessment for a village or a larger area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**192.** The Sikh scripture, Adi Granth, was compiled and edited in its final form by:
(A) Guru Nanak
(B) Guru Arjan Dev
(C) Guru Gobind Singh
(D) Banda Bahadur

**193.** The religious philosophy of Vallabhacharya, which emphasizes salvation through the grace of God, is known as:
(A) Pushtimarg
(B) Advaita
(C) Dvaita
(D) Vishishtadvaita

**194.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mughal School of painting was a completely indigenous art form with no foreign influence.
Statement II: It was a synthesis of the indigenous Indian tradition of painting and the Persian school of miniature painting.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**195.** The primary language for literature in the Vijayanagar Empire, especially during the reign of Krishnadevaraya, was:
(A) Telugu
(B) Persian
(C) Sanskrit
(D) Pali

**196.** Which Mughal emperor's policy was to maintain a balance between the different groups of nobles and to win over the Rajput chieftains through matrimonial alliances and high mansabs?
(A) Akbar
(B) Babur
(C) Aurangzeb
(D) Shahjahan

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**197.** Which of the following was NOT a popular form of entertainment during the medieval period in India?
(A) Television soap operas
(B) Animal fights (elephants, camels)
(C) Wrestling
(D) Polo (Chaugan)

**198.** The famous Sufi shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti is located in:
(A) Ajmer
(B) Delhi
(C) Fatehpur Sikri
(D) Gulbarga

**199.** What does the term 'Jizya' signify in the context of medieval Indian tax systems?
(A) A customs duty on imported goods.
(B) A poll-tax levied on non-Muslim subjects in a state governed by Islamic law.
(C) A tax on the agricultural produce of peasants.
(D) A tax on the sale of property.

**200.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The Bhakti movement was a social and religious movement that criticized the caste system and ritualism.
Reason (R): Bhakti saints like Kabir, Nanak, and Ravidas came from diverse social backgrounds, including lower castes, and preached the message of equality and devotion.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**201.** Which of the following is the most accurate description of the condition of women in medieval Muslim society?
(A) They possessed no legal or social rights in

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(C) Pahari painting
(D) Deccan painting

**131.** The social status of women in the Vijayanagar Empire was complex. Which statement most accurately reflects this?
(A) Some women were highly educated and involved in literature, administration, and even wrestling, while practices like Sati were also prevalent.
(B) Women were strictly confined to their homes and had no public role.
(C) Women enjoyed complete equality with men in all spheres of life.
(D) The practice of Sati was banned and polygamy was not permitted.

**132.** Consider the following Bhakti saints:
1. Kabir
2. Tulsidas
3. Nanak

Which of them were proponents of 'Nirguna' Bhakti (devotion to a formless God)?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**133.** The Mughal emperor Babur's religious policy is best understood as:
(A) Generally pragmatic, without the bigotry of a religious zealot, though he did not hesitate to use religious rhetoric for political ends.
(B) A fanatical zeal to convert India to Islam.
(C) The creation of a new syncretic faith.
(D) A policy of actively destroying Hindu temples and promoting Shia Islam.

**134.** What was the primary difference between the Chishti and Suhrawardi Sufi orders in India?
(A) The Chishtis generally maintained distance from the state and lived in poverty, while the Suhrawardis accepted state grants and positions.
(B) The Chishtis were urban-based, while the Suhrawardis lived in forests.
(C) The Chishtis advocated 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud', while the Suhrawardis advocated 'Wahdat-ush-Shuhud'.
(D) The Chishtis were exclusively a North Indian order, while the Suhrawardis were only in the South.

**135.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mughal emperors maintained a large and efficient minting system that produced highly standardized gold, silver, and copper coins.
Statement II: The uniformity and purity of Mughal currency greatly facilitated trade and commerce across the vast empire.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**136.** Which of the following best defines the 'Jagir' system?
(A) A system of assigning the revenue of a piece of land to a noble in lieu of a cash salary.
(B) A system of hereditary ownership of land by peasants.
(C) The practice of revenue farming to the highest bidder.
(D) A tax collected from non-Muslims for military protection.

**137.** The musical form 'Khayal' which gained prominence in the later medieval period, is often attributed for its development to:
(A) The rulers of the Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur.
(B) Tansen in the court of Akbar.
(C) The Sufi poet Amir Khusrau.
(D) The Bhakti saints of Maharashtra.

**138.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding social customs in medieval India.
(A) The 'Purdah' system was observed by both upper-class Hindu and Muslim women.
(B) The caste system was the bedrock of Hindu society.
(C) The practice of Sati was completely eradicated during the Sultanate period.
(D) Entertainment included activities like chess, chaupar, and animal fights.

**139.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Shahjahan's reign is often called the 'Golden Age of Mughal Architecture'.
Reason (R): Shahjahan's reign was marked by

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(D) Aurangzeb

**174.** Match the Author in List I with the Literary Work in List II.
List I: (Author)
P. Abul Fazl
Q. Tulsidas
R. Krishnadevaraya
S. Sant Gyaneshwara
List II: (Literary Work)
1. Gyaneshwari
2. Amuktamalyada
3. Ramcharitmanas
4. Akbarnama
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**175.** The 'Kangra' and 'Guler' styles are associated with which major school of medieval Indian painting?
(A) Pahari School
(B) Mughal School
(C) Deccan School
(D) Rajasthani School

**176.** Which of the following statements most accurately describes the urbanization process in medieval India?
(A) The period saw the growth of existing cities and the foundation of new ones, driven by administrative needs and commercial activity.
(B) Urbanization declined sharply due to constant warfare.
(C) All cities were small, fortified settlements with no commercial life.
(D) Urban centers existed only on the sea coast and not in the hinterland.

**177.** Consider the following statements about the religious life in the Vijayanagar Empire:
1. The rulers were patrons of all Hindu sects, particularly Vaishnavism and Shaivism.
2. Temples were not only places of worship but also major economic and social institutions.
3. The practice of other religions like Islam and Christianity was strictly forbidden.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**178.** What was the 'Batai' system of land revenue assessment?
(A) The division of the actual crop at the threshing floor between the state and the cultivator.
(B) A fixed cash payment based on a ten-year average.
(C) A rough estimate of the produce of a village.
(D) A tax on non-agricultural income.

**179.** The Bhakti movement saint who was a contemporary of the Mughal emperors Akbar and Jahangir and wrote the epic 'Ramcharitmanas' was:
(A) Tulsidas
(B) Kabir
(C) Guru Nanak
(D) Meerabai

**180.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mughal relations with the Sikhs were peaceful and cordial throughout the entire Mughal period.
Statement II: The martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev under Jahangir and Guru Tegh Bahadur under Aurangzeb created deep-seated hostility and led to armed conflict.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**181.** The use of elaborate 'jalis' (perforated stone screens) in Mughal architecture served both an aesthetic and a functional purpose, which was:
(A) To allow ventilation and subdued light into the interior while maintaining privacy.
(B) To support the weight of the main dome.
(C) To act as a defensive barrier against intruders.
(D) To display royal inscriptions and edicts.

**182.** Who among the following is considered a pioneer of the Bhakti movement in North India,

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(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**147.** Read the following scenario and answer the question that follows:
*A group of merchants in medieval India wants to transport a large consignment of cotton textiles from Gujarat to Agra. Their most likely mode of transport would be:*
(A) A fleet of river steamers.
(B) A newly constructed railway line.
(C) A large caravan of pack animals and bullock carts.
(D) A series of interconnected flights.

**148.** The 'Virashaiva' or Lingayat movement, a radical Shaivite sect in the Deccan, was founded by:
(A) Basavanna
(B) Shankaracharya
(C) Ramanujacharya
(D) Sant Gyaneshwara

**149.** The 'Ain-i-Dahsala', the land revenue system of Akbar, was largely the brainchild of which of his ministers?
(A) Abul Fazl
(B) Raja Todar Mal
(C) Faizi
(D) Birbal

**150.** Which of the following correctly identifies the religious policy of Shahjahan?
(A) He was a radical liberal who promoted Christianity.
(B) He was more orthodox than Akbar and Jahangir, but less so than Aurangzeb.
(C) He was an atheist who dismantled all religious institutions.
(D) He was an exact follower of Akbar's Sulh-i-Kul policy without any deviation.

**151.** Which of the following was a primary motivation for the establishment of 'Madrasas' in medieval India?
(A) To provide universal primary education to all children.
(B) To teach vocational crafts like weaving and metalwork.
(C) To train scholars in Islamic theology and law (fiqh) to serve as officials for the state.
(D) To promote the study of Western science and philosophy.

**152.** Consider the following statements about the Sikh Gurus:
1. Guru Nanak was the founder of the Sikh faith.
2. Guru Gobind Singh was the tenth and last human Guru.
3. Guru Arjan Dev was martyred during the reign of Akbar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**153.** The 'Pahari' school of painting, which flourished in the Himalayan foothills, primarily drew its themes from:
(A) Mughal court scenes and portraiture.
(B) Hindu mythology, particularly the legends of Radha and Krishna.
(C) The Jataka tales of Buddhism.
(D) Christian biblical stories.

**154.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The 'purdah' system became more widespread among upper-class women in both Hindu and Muslim communities during the medieval period.
Reason (R): It was seen as a symbol of higher social status and was adopted by upper-caste Hindus in imitation of the Muslim nobility.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**155.** What was the role of ornaments in medieval Indian society?
(A) They were worn by both men and women and signified social status, wealth, and religious belief.
(B) They were worn only by women.
(C) They were used as a form of currency.
(D) Their use was forbidden by all major

religions.

**156.** The economic life in the Vijayanagar empire was characterized by a flourishing trade in which of the following commodities?
(A) Spices, textiles, and precious stones
(B) Iron ore and coal
(C) Heavy industrial machinery
(D) Computer software

**157.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: Sant Ravidas, a prominent Bhakti saint, was a cobbler by profession.
Statement II: The Bhakti movement was an exclusively upper-caste, Brahminical movement that excluded people from lower castes.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**158.** The 'Gita Govinda', a lyrical poem on the love of Krishna and Radha that influenced the Bhakti movement, was composed by:
(A) Tulsidas
(B) Jayadeva
(C) Meerabai
(D) Kalidasa

**159.** Match the Mughal Ruler in List I with the Characteristic of Religious Policy in List II.
List I: (Mughal Ruler)
P. Akbar
Q. Jahangir
R. Shahjahan
S. Aurangzeb
List II: (Characteristic of Religious Policy)
1. Orthodox shift, demolition of new temples
2. Re-imposition of Jizya, orthodox puritanism
3. Sulh-i-Kul, abolition of Jizya
4. General continuation of liberal policy, execution of Guru Arjan Dev
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**160.** Which of the following statements about the condition of peasants during the medieval period is most accurate?
(A) They were all prosperous landowners with significant political power.
(B) They formed a differentiated group, ranging from land-owning 'khud-kashta' to landless laborers, and were often subject to high revenue demands.
(C) They were all landless laborers working on state-owned farms.
(D) They were exempt from all forms of taxation.

**161.** The 'Kalyana Mandapa' (marriage hall), often with elaborately carved pillars, was a distinctive addition to temple architecture under which dynasty?
(A) Mauryas
(B) Guptas
(C) Vijayanagar
(D) Mughals

**162.** Who among the following Sikh Gurus established the city of Amritsar and started the construction of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple)?
(A) Guru Ram Das
(B) Guru Nanak
(C) Guru Angad
(D) Guru Arjan Dev

**163.** The devotional path of the Sufis was often in conflict with orthodox Islamic clergy (Ulema) because:
(A) The Ulema emphasized strict adherence to external religious laws (Sharia), while Sufis emphasized inner mystical experience and love for God.
(B) Sufis completely rejected the Quran and the Prophet Muhammad.
(C) Sufis refused to pray or fast.
(D) The Ulema were all non-Muslims trying to corrupt Islam.

**164.** Consider the following statements about medieval Indian industries:
1. The textile industry was one of the most prominent, producing cotton and silk fabrics.
2. Shipbuilding was a major industry, particularly in coastal areas like Bengal, Gujarat, and Malabar.
3. The production of iron and steel was unknown in medieval India.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**165.** The Mughal emperor Jahangir's religious policy was a mix of liberalism and orthodoxy. An example of his orthodoxy is:
(A) His marriage to Nur Jahan.
(B) His patronage of Hindu scholars and yogis.
(C) The execution of the Sikh Guru Arjan Dev.
(D) His keen interest in European painting.

**166.** Read the following scenario and answer the question that follows:
*A historian finds a document from the Mughal era detailing the state's revenue from a specific piece of land that is directly managed by imperial officials, with the proceeds going to the central treasury. This land would be classified as:*
(A) Jagir land
(B) Khalisa land
(C) Inam land
(D) Waqf land

**167.** The 'Naqshbandi' Sufi order, which gained prominence during the later Mughal period, was known for its:
(A) Insistence on strict adherence to the Sharia and opposition to innovations like 'Sama'.
(B) Syncretic beliefs, mixing Hindu and Islamic practices.
(C) Complete withdrawal from society and extreme asceticism.
(D) Political neutrality and refusal to accept state patronage.

**168.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The development of Sanskrit literature came to a complete halt during the medieval period due to the dominance of Persian.
Statement II: Despite the pre-eminence of Persian, Sanskrit continued to be patronized by Hindu kings, especially in South India and Rajasthan, and significant works were still produced.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**169.** Identify the incorrect pair of a Bhakti saint and their associated region.
(A) Tukaram - Maharashtra
(B) Nanak - Punjab
(C) Vallabhacharya - Bengal
(D) Ramanujacharya - Tamil Nadu

**170.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The foundation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 transformed the Sikh community.
Reason (R): It created a disciplined and martial community, the 'saint-soldiers', committed to defending their faith and fighting against injustice and tyranny.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**171.** The religious policy of Babur was primarily driven by:
(A) Political pragmatism and the need to consolidate a new empire.
(B) A desire to enforce Sunni Islam on all subjects.
(C) A deep-seated hatred for Hinduism.
(D) The influence of his mother, who was a devout Buddhist.

NODIA

**172.** The term 'Sati', a social evil prevalent in parts of medieval Hindu society, refers to:
(A) The practice of a widow immolating herself on her husband's funeral pyre.
(B) The remarriage of widows.
(C) A woman's right to inherit her husband's property.
(D) The seclusion of women from public view.

**173.** The 'Madrasa-i-Firuz Shahi' in Delhi was a famous center of higher learning established by:
(A) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(B) Alauddin Khilji
(C) Akbar

extensive building activity, with a preference for marble over red sandstone, culminating in masterpieces like the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort at Delhi.

(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**140.** Ramananda, a key figure in the North Indian Bhakti movement, is significant because he:
(A) Preached in the vernacular language and took disciples from all castes, including Kabir and Ravidas.
(B) Advocated the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta.
(C) Was the first Bhakti saint to compose in Persian.
(D) Founded the Varkari sect in Maharashtra.

**141.** Match the School of Painting in List I with the Characteristic Feature in List II.
List I: (School of Painting)
P. Mughal School (Jahangir's period)
Q. Rajasthani School
R. Pahari School
S. Vijayanagar School (Murals)
List II: (Characteristic Feature)
1. Lyrical themes of Radha-Krishna (e.g., Kangra style)
2. Religious narratives with flat, bold colors and strong outlines.
3. Realistic portraiture and scientific studies of nature.
4. Mythological themes and scenes from Ramayana/Mahabharata.
(A) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

**142.** What was the 'Amil' or 'Amalguzar' in the Mughal administrative machinery?
(A) A revenue collector at the district (sarkar) level.
(B) A military commander of a fort.
(C) The head of the royal household.
(D) A judge who presided over criminal cases.

**143.** Consider the following statements about the development of Sikhism:
1. The first five Gurus focused primarily on establishing the spiritual and social foundations of the faith.
2. The martyrdom of the fifth and ninth Gurus led to a greater emphasis on self-defense and militarization.
3. The tenth Guru, Gobind Singh, declared the line of human Gurus to be at an end, investing Guruship in the holy scripture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**144.** The main motivation for the development of an extensive system of literature in regional languages during the medieval period was:
(A) The efforts of Bhakti and Sufi saints to communicate their message to the common people.
(B) The desire of rulers to replace Persian as the court language.
(C) A directive from the Caliph to promote local dialects.
(D) The patronage of European trading companies.

**145.** The social life in the Vijayanagar empire included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The absence of temples as centers of social life.
(B) A well-defined caste hierarchy.
(C) The practice of polygamy among the wealthy and royalty.
(D) The prevalence of Sati, especially in higher classes.

**146.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mughal emperors, particularly Akbar, took a keen interest in the development of music, patronizing musicians like Tansen.
Statement II: Aurangzeb, due to his orthodox religious beliefs, banned instrumental and vocal music from his court.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.

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bridging the gap between the southern Bhakti and the later saints like Kabir?
(A) Ramananda
(B) Shankaracharya
(C) Chaitanya
(D) Tukaram

**183.** Which of the following was NOT a major handicraft industry in medieval India?
(A) Automobile manufacturing
(B) Textile production
(C) Metalwork and jewelry
(D) Stone carving and sculpture

**184.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Aurangzeb's religious policies contributed to the decline of the Mughal Empire.
Reason (R): His orthodox policies, such as the reimposition of Jizya and the destruction of temples, alienated large sections of the non-Muslim population, particularly the Rajputs and Marathas, leading to rebellions that weakened the empire.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**185.** The clothing of common people in medieval India was generally:
(A) Simple and made of locally available cotton.
(B) Made of expensive silk and brocade.
(C) Imported from Europe.
(D) Uniform across the country, dictated by the emperor.

**186.** Which of the following is a correct statement about the condition of women in medieval Hindu society?
(A) The practice of 'Sati' and child marriage were prevalent, particularly in certain communities and regions.
(B) Widow remarriage was widely encouraged and practiced across all castes.
(C) The 'Purdah' system was completely non-existent.
(D) Women had equal rights of inheritance to ancestral property.

**187.** The term 'Sufi' is generally believed to have been derived from the Arabic word 'suf', which means:
(A) Wool, referring to the coarse woolen garments worn by early mystics.
(B) Wisdom, referring to their philosophical knowledge.
(C) Sword, referring to their role as holy warriors.
(D) Purity, referring to the purity of their hearts.

**188.** The Vijayanagar style of architecture is considered a part of which broader tradition of Indian temple architecture?
(A) Dravidian style
(B) Nagara style
(C) Vesara style
(D) Gandhara style

**189.** Match the Bhakti Saint in List I with the Main Deity of Devotion in List II.
List I: (Bhakti Saint)
P. Meerabai
Q. Tulsidas
R. Chaitanya
S. Tukaram
List II: (Main Deity of Devotion)
1. Rama
2. Krishna (as Vithoba)
3. Krishna
4. Krishna
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**190.** What was the impact of Aurangzeb's ban on music at the imperial court?
(A) It caused musicians to seek patronage in the courts of regional nobles and governors, leading to the decentralization and development of regional musical styles.
(B) It led to the complete extinction of classical music in India.
(C) It led to the development of a new form of silent, meditative music.
(D) It had no real impact as the ban was never enforced.

**191.** Consider the following statements about the land revenue system under the Mughals:

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Muslims, which had been abolished by Akbar.
3. He ordered the destruction of several prominent Hindu temples, viewing them as centers of political defiance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**122.** The 'Guru Granth Sahib' is unique among world scriptures because:
(A) It is the only holy book written entirely in poetry.
(B) It accords the status of a living Guru to the holy scripture itself.
(C) It was compiled by the founder of the religion himself.
(D) It is written in a secret code that only a few can decipher.

**123.** The 'Kalamkari' and 'Bandhani' are famous forms of what medieval handicraft?
(A) Pottery
(B) Metalwork
(C) Textile dyeing and printing
(D) Wood carving

**124.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Bhakti movement was confined only to North India and had no presence in the South.
Statement II: The roots of the Bhakti movement can be traced to the hymns of the Alvars (Vaishnavite) and Nayanars (Shaivite) saints of South India from the 7th to 9th centuries.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**125.** The primary objective of the educational system in medieval India (Maktabs and Madrasas) was to produce:
(A) Literate and religiously knowledgeable individuals who could serve the state
(B) Scientists and innovators
(C) Artists and musicians
(D) Democratic leaders

**126.** Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Meerabai - Punjab
(B) Sant Gyaneshwara - Maharashtra
(C) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu - Bengal
(D) Ramananda - Prayag (Allahabad)

**127.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The economic life of the Vijayanagar Empire was marked by considerable prosperity.
Reason (R): Its control over the fertile Raichur doab and profitable sea ports, combined with a well-managed land revenue system, generated immense wealth for the state.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**128.** The concept of 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud' (Unity of Being), influential among Indian Sufis, is philosophically close to which Indian philosophical concept?
(A) Advaita Vedanta of Shankaracharya
(B) Nyaya logic
(C) Dvaita of Madhvacharya
(D) Samkhya dualism

**129.** Arrange the construction of the following monuments in chronological order:
1. Taj Mahal
2. Qutub Minar (construction started)
3. Buland Darwaza
4. Humayun's Tomb

Choose the correct sequence:
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 3, 4, 1
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

**130.** The 'Kishangarh school' of painting, known for its stylized depiction of 'Bani Thani', was a sub-school of which major art form?
(A) Rajasthani painting
(B) Mughal painting

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any form whatsoever.
(B) They held rights superior to men in all religious and legal aspects.
(C) Legally, they had rights to property and divorce, though often restricted by patriarchal social customs.
(D) The Quran strictly and completely forbids women from owning any property.

**202.** The architectural style that developed in the Deccan sultanates like Bijapur and Golconda is notable for its:
(A) Unique synthesis of Persian, Turkish, and South Indian (Dravidian) elements.
(B) Exclusive use of wood and thatch.
(C) Exact imitation of North Indian Mughal architecture.
(D) Lack of any domes or arches.

**203.** Which of the following is a key teaching of Guru Nanak?
(A) The worship of multiple gods and goddesses.
(B) The belief in one formless God and the equality of all human beings.
(C) The necessity of asceticism and renouncing family life.
(D) The strict observance of caste rules and rituals.

**204.** Match the Term from Economic Life in List I with the Meaning in List II.
List I: (Term from Economic Life)
P. Sarais
Q. Dadan
R. Karkhanas
S. Banjaras
List II: (Meaning)
1. An advance payment system for artisans
2. Royal workshops
3. Rest houses for travelers and merchants
4. Itinerant trading communities
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**205.** The 'Basohli' and 'Mankot' styles are early phases of which school of painting?
(A) Pahari School
(B) Mughal School
(C) Rajasthani School
(D) Deccan School

**206.** Consider the following statements about the cultural life in the Vijayanagar Empire:
1. The rulers were great patrons of Sanskrit and regional languages like Telugu and Kannada.
2. The architectural style was a unique blend of Dravidian and Islamic features.
3. Foreign travelers like Abdur Razzak provided detailed accounts of the city and its culture.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

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**207.** Read the following scenario and answer the question that follows:
*A ruler in medieval India wants to build a new capital city that reflects his power and religious tolerance. He includes mosques, temples, palaces, and public buildings, and invites artisans from across his empire. This approach is most characteristic of:*
(A) Akbar's construction of Fatehpur Sikri.
(B) Firoz Shah Tughlaq's construction of Firozabad.
(C) Krishnadevaraya's development of Vijayanagara.
(D) Aurangzeb's projects in Delhi.

**208.** The main difference between 'Saguna' and 'Nirguna' bhakti is:
(A) Saguna bhakti involves devotion to God with attributes, while Nirguna is devotion to a formless God.
(B) Saguna bhakti is for men, while Nirguna bhakti is exclusively for women.
(C) Saguna bhakti involves devotion to a formless God, while Nirguna involves devotion to God with attributes (e.g., as an idol).
(D) Saguna bhakti is practiced in North India, while Nirguna is in the South.

**209.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mughal emperor Jahangir

**229.** Which Bhakti saint's compositions are included in the holy scriptures of both the Sikhs (Guru Granth Sahib) and the Kabirpanthis?
(A) Kabir
(B) Tulsidas
(C) Meerabai
(D) Chaitanya

**230.** Match the Saint/Philosopher in List I with the Associated School of Thought in List II.
List I: (Saint/Philosopher)
P. Ramanuja
Q. Madhvacharya
R. Shankaracharya
S. Vallabhacharya
List II: (Associated School of Thought)
1. Advaita (Non-dualism)
2. Dvaita (Dualism)
3. Vishishtadvaita (Qualified Non-dualism)
4. Shuddhadvaita (Pure Non-dualism)
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**231.** The Mughal system of education, centered on 'Maktabs' and 'Madrasas', was primarily focused on:
(A) Religious and administrative training.
(B) Vocational skills for artisans.
(C) Scientific and technological innovation.
(D) Physical education and sports.

**232.** Consider the following statements about Sufism:
1. It is the mystical branch of Islam.
2. Sufis were organized into various orders or 'Silsilas'.
3. The Chishti order in India abstained from state politics and lived in poverty.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**233.** The 'Persian wheel' was a crucial technology for which economic activity in medieval India?
(A) Irrigation for agriculture
(B) Weaving textiles
(C) Minting coins
(D) Sea navigation

**234.** The reign of which Mughal emperor is considered a 'Golden Age' for painting?
(A) Jahangir
(B) Babur
(C) Humayun
(D) Aurangzeb

**235.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The social life of the Vijayanagar empire was egalitarian with no caste distinctions.
Statement II: Accounts of foreign travelers like Nicolo de Conti and Abdur Razzak describe a society with a rigid caste system and practices like Sati.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**236.** The 'Ain-i-Akbari', a detailed account of Akbar's administration and empire, was authored by:
(A) Abul Fazl
(B) Badauni
(C) Faizi
(D) Todar Mal

**237.** The Bhakti saint from Maharashtra who was a contemporary of Shivaji and is known for his 'Abhangas' is:
(A) Tukaram
(B) Sant Gyaneshwara
(C) Eknath
(D) Ramananda

**238.** What was the main reason for the growth of urbanization during the Sultanate and Mughal periods?
(A) The concentration of administration, nobility, and military camps, which created demand for goods and services.
(B) The decline in agriculture forced people to move to cities.
(C) European influence and colonization.
(D) A government policy to forcibly relocate villagers.

**239.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.

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called 'Din-i-Ilahi' or 'Tauhid-i-Ilahi'.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**220.** The famous architectural masterpiece, the Gol Gumbaz in Bijapur, is known for its:
(A) Massive central dome which is one of the largest in the world.
(B) Intricate pietra dura inlay work.
(C) Surrounding charbagh garden.
(D) Red sandstone facade.

**221.** If you were a trader in the 17th century wanting to send money from Surat to Delhi without physically carrying the cash, your most reliable method would be to use a:
(A) Hundi
(B) Cheque
(C) Bank draft
(D) Postal money order

**222.** The Alvars and Nayanars of South India were early proponents of:
(A) The Bhakti movement
(B) Jainism
(C) Buddhism
(D) The Ajivika sect

**223.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mughal emperor Aurangzeb followed a liberal and tolerant religious policy similar to Akbar.
Statement II: Aurangzeb's reign was marked by Islamic puritanism, the reimposition of Jizya, and the destruction of some Hindu temples.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**224.** The 'Vaishnavism' sect within the Bhakti movement is characterized by:
(A) The worship of Lord Vishnu, especially his incarnations Rama and Krishna.
(B) The worship of Lord Shiva and his family.
(C) The worship of the Mother Goddess.
(D) The worship of a formless, attribute-less divine principle.

**225.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The Chishti Sufis in India, like Moinuddin Chishti and Nizamuddin Auliya, were immensely popular among the common masses.
Reason (R): They adopted a simple, pious lifestyle, used local languages for their teachings, and their 'dargahs' (shrines) were open to people of all faiths and castes.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**226.** What was the primary difference between the Chishti and Suhrawardi Sufi orders in India?
(A) The Chishtis generally maintained distance from the state and lived in poverty, while the Suhrawardis accepted state grants and positions.
(B) The Chishtis were urban-based, while the Suhrawardis lived in forests.
(C) The Chishtis advocated 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud', while the Suhrawardis advocated 'Wahdat-ush-Shuhud'.
(D) The Chishtis were exclusively a North Indian order, while the Suhrawardis were only in the South.

**227.** The Mughal-Sikh relations deteriorated significantly after:
(A) The martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev during Jahangir's reign.
(B) Guru Nanak's travels.
(C) The compilation of the Adi Granth.
(D) The establishment of the city of Amritsar.

**228.** The development of architecture in South India during the medieval period is best exemplified by the works of which empire?
(A) The Vijayanagar Empire
(B) The Mauryan Empire
(C) The Gupta Empire
(D) The Pala Empire

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showed little interest in painting.
Statement II: The reign of Jahangir is often considered the golden age of Mughal painting, with a focus on portraiture and nature studies.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**210.** What was the most significant impact of the Bhakti movement on Indian literature?
(A) It spurred the growth and development of literature in regional vernacular languages.
(B) It led to the decline of all literary production.
(C) It promoted Persian as the sole literary language.
(D) It ensured that all literature was written only in Sanskrit.

**211.** Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) Tulsidas - Saguna Bhakti
(B) Kabir - Saguna Bhakti
(C) Meerabai - Nirguna Bhakti
(D) Guru Nanak - Saguna Bhakti

**212.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The city of Vijayanagara was one of the largest and most prosperous cities in the world in the 15th and 16th centuries.
Reason (R): The empire's thriving internal and foreign trade, efficient agriculture supported by advanced irrigation, and patronage of the rulers contributed to its immense wealth and size.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**213.** The practice of creating 'charbagh' (four-part garden) layouts around tombs and palaces was introduced to India by the:
(A) Mughals
(B) Delhi Sultans
(C) Cholas
(D) Mauryas

**214.** The term 'Sama' in Sufism refers to the practice of:
(A) Listening to devotional music and poetry to achieve spiritual ecstasy.
(B) Fasting for 40 days.
(C) Reciting the Quran five times a day.
(D) Undertaking a pilgrimage to a saint's tomb.

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**215.** The 'tanka' and 'jital' were two basic coins of the Delhi Sultanate, introduced by:
(A) Iltutmish
(B) Alauddin Khilji
(C) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(D) Balban

**216.** The condition of Hindu women in medieval India was marked by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Widespread encouragement of widow remarriage across all castes.
(B) The prevalence of the Sati custom in some communities.
(C) Limited property rights, mainly confined to 'stridhana'.
(D) The practice of child marriage.

**217.** In the context of the Mughal army, 'mansabdars' were:
(A) A class of nobles who held a rank (mansab) and were obliged to supply a certain number of cavalrymen.
(B) Ordinary foot soldiers.
(C) In charge of the imperial treasury.
(D) Religious preachers attached to the army.

**218.** The life and teachings of the Sikh Gurus are primarily recorded in which of the following sources?
(A) The Guru Granth Sahib and Janamsakhis
(B) The Vedas and Upanishads
(C) The Puranas
(D) The Tripitakas

**219.** Consider the following statements regarding the religious policy of Akbar:
1. He abolished the Jizya and the pilgrimage tax on non-Muslims.
2. He established the Ibadat Khana for religious discussions with scholars of all faiths.
3. He promulgated a new syncretic order

Assertion (A): The religious policy of Aurangzeb was a departure from Akbar's policy of Sulh-i-kul.
Reason (R): Aurangzeb's policies were guided by a more orthodox interpretation of Islam, leading to the re-introduction of Jizya and other measures that alienated non-Muslims.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**240.** The 'Gopuram', a monumental and ornate entrance tower, is a characteristic feature of temple architecture in:
(A) South India
(B) North India
(C) The Gandhara region
(D) The Pala kingdom

**241.** Which of the following statements about the Khalsa is incorrect?
(A) It was primarily a trading and merchant guild.
(B) It was founded by Guru Gobind Singh.
(C) It created a 'saint-soldier' community.
(D) Its members were required to adopt the five 'K's.

**242.** The philosophy of 'Advaita' (non-dualism) was propounded by:
(A) Shankaracharya
(B) Ramanujacharya
(C) Madhvacharya
(D) Vallabhacharya

**243.** The production of high-quality cotton and silk textiles was a major industry in medieval India, with which region being particularly famous for its fine muslins?
(A) Bengal
(B) Punjab
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Maharashtra

**244.** The Mughal emperor Humayun's religious attitude can be described as:
(A) Syncretic and influenced by his personal mystical beliefs.
(B) Extremely orthodox and intolerant.
(C) Apathetic towards all religion.
(D) A follower of Jainism.

**245.** Match the medieval term in List I with its meaning in List II.
List I: (Term)
P. Khud-kashta
Q. Pahi-kashta
R. Jizya
S. Zakat
List II: (Meaning)
1. A tax on non-Muslims
2. A religious tax on Muslims
3. A resident self-cultivating peasant
4. A non-resident cultivator
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**246.** Who among the following was a renowned female Bhakti saint devoted to Lord Krishna?
(A) Meerabai
(B) Sant Gyaneshwara
(C) Tulsidas
(D) Kabir

**247.** Consider the following about cultural developments under the Mughals:
1. Persian was the official language of the court.
2. The period saw a synthesis of Indo-Persian architectural styles.
3. Regional languages and literature were completely suppressed.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**248.** The 'Nayankara' system of the Vijayanagar empire was primarily a system of:
(A) Delegating military and administrative authority over territories (amaram) in exchange for military service.
(B) Revenue collection in cash.
(C) Village-level judicial administration.
(D) Religious endowments to temples.

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(C) Kabir
(D) Chaitanya

**293.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Mughal school of painting was a blend of Persian and Indian styles.
Statement II: It reached its zenith under Emperor Aurangzeb, who was a great patron of arts.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**294.** The famous musician Tansen was a part of the court of which Mughal emperor?
(A) Akbar
(B) Babur
(C) Humayun
(D) Jahangir

**295.** Which of the following statements about the condition of peasants in medieval India is incorrect?
(A) They were all prosperous and free from debt.
(B) They were a differentiated group with varying levels of land rights.
(C) The land revenue demand was often high.
(D) They had to pay various other cesses apart from the land revenue.

**296.** The founder of the Sikh faith was:
(A) Guru Nanak
(B) Guru Gobind Singh
(C) Guru Arjan Dev
(D) Guru Tegh Bahadur

**297.** The concept of 'Sulh-i-Kul' (universal peace) propagated by Akbar meant:
(A) Harmony and tolerance among all religions.
(B) Peace only among Muslims.
(C) Peace through military conquest.
(D) A peace treaty with a specific enemy.

**298.** 'Amuktamalyada', a famous work on statecraft, was authored by which Vijayanagar ruler?
(A) Krishnadevaraya
(B) Harihara I
(C) Bukka I
(D) Deva Raya II

**299.** In the context of medieval society, 'ornaments' were primarily used for:
(A) Adornment by both men and women, and as a mark of status.
(B) Religious rituals only.
(C) Barter in trade.
(D) Weapons in disguise.

**300.** The Sufi silsila that was most orthodox and stressed adherence to Sharia was the:
(A) Chishti
(B) Naqshbandi
(C) Suhrawardi
(D) Qadiri

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(A) Guru Tegh Bahadur
(B) Guru Arjan Dev
(C) Guru Hargobind
(D) Guru Gobind Singh

**260.** The architectural feature of 'pietra dura', or inlaying semi-precious stones on marble, is most prominently featured in which monument?
(A) Taj Mahal
(B) Qutub Minar
(C) Gol Gumbaz
(D) Brihadeshwara Temple

**261.** Arrange the following Bhakti saints in the correct chronological order:
1. Shankaracharya
2. Ramanuja
3. Kabir
(A) 1, 2, 3
(B) 2, 1, 3
(C) 3, 2, 1
(D) 1, 3, 2

**262.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The means of transport in medieval India were highly advanced, featuring a network of highways and railways.
Statement II: Internal trade largely relied on river transport and overland caravans using pack animals and bullock carts.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**263.** The devotional songs of Meerabai were composed in which language/dialect?
(A) Braj Bhasha and Rajasthani
(B) Bengali
(C) Marathi
(D) Telugu

**264.** The primary motivation of the educational system in medieval India was to:
(A) Impart religious knowledge and train individuals for state service.
(B) Promote secular and scientific values.
(C) Encourage critical thinking and dissent.
(D) Provide vocational training to the masses.

**265.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about the religious policy of Aurangzeb?
(A) He patronized music and painting at his court.
(B) He reimposed Jizya on non-Muslims.
(C) He discontinued many court ceremonies he considered un-Islamic.
(D) He ordered the destruction of certain Hindu temples.

**266.** The two main branches of the Bhakti movement, Nirguna and Saguna, differed on the basis of:
(A) Their conception of God as formless or with form.
(B) Their geographical location.
(C) Their caste of their followers.
(D) Their political affiliations.

**267.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The economic condition of the Vijayanagar Empire was prosperous.
Reason (R): The empire had a flourishing agricultural economy and controlled a lucrative overseas trade in spices and textiles.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**268.** The 'Gyaneshwari', a famous commentary on the Bhagavad Gita, was written by:
(A) Sant Gyaneshwara
(B) Tukaram
(C) Eknath
(D) Namdev

**269.** The 'Ashraf' and 'Ajlaf' were social divisions within which community in medieval India?
(A) Muslim society
(B) Hindu society
(C) Sikh society
(D) Jain society

**270.** Match the Architectural Style/Feature in List I with the Associated Dynasty/Ruler in List II.
List I: (Architectural Style/Feature)
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**249.** The Chishti Sufi order gained immense popularity in India due to its emphasis on:
(A) Love, service to humanity, and assimilation with local culture.
(B) Political power and wealth accumulation.
(C) Strict adherence to dogma and ritual.
(D) Military conquest and forced conversions.

**250.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The condition of women in medieval India was uniform across all castes, classes, and regions.
Statement II: There were significant variations in the status and freedoms of women depending on their social standing, with royal and aristocratic women often being educated but also more secluded.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**251.** Which of the following is the most appropriate description of the Mughal land revenue system known as 'Zabti' or 'Dahsala'?
(A) A system of crop sharing.
(B) A tribute system imposed on subordinate chiefs.
(C) A system of tax farming.
(D) A fixed revenue demand based on a ten-year average of produce and prices.

**252.** The development of major schools of painting like the Rajasthani and Pahari schools was influenced by:
(A) The decline of Mughal imperial patronage, which led artists to seek work in regional courts.
(B) The direct intervention of European artists.
(C) A religious decree banning all forms of art.
(D) The discovery of new painting materials from America.

**253.** The Bhakti saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is most famously associated with which region of India?
(A) Bengal
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Punjab
(D) Rajasthan

**254.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The Mughal era witnessed a flourishing of literature in Persian as well as in regional languages.
Reason (R): While Persian was the language of the court and administration, the Bhakti and Sufi movements provided a major stimulus for the growth of vernacular literature.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**255.** The concept of 'Pir' and 'Murid' in Sufism represents the relationship between:
(A) The spiritual master and the disciple.
(B) The ruler and the subject.
(C) The husband and the wife.
(D) The merchant and the customer.

**256.** Which of the following was NOT a tax in medieval India?
(A) VAT (Value Added Tax)
(B) Kharaj
(C) Jizya
(D) Zakat

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**257.** The 'Ibadat Khana' or House of Worship at Fatehpur Sikri was established by Akbar for what purpose?
(A) To hold discussions with scholars and theologians of different religions.
(B) To serve as his private prayer hall.
(C) To function as a supreme court for legal matters.
(D) To store the imperial treasury.

**258.** Identify the correct statement about the social life of the Vijayanagar Empire.
(A) The temple was the center of social and cultural life.
(B) It was a casteless society.
(C) Women enjoyed a high status and practices like Sati were non-existent.
(D) The primary language spoken was Persian.

**259.** Which Sikh Guru was executed on the orders of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb?

(A) Tukaram
(B) Ramananda
(C) Kabir
(D) Tulsidas

**281.** The use of red sandstone and white marble together is a key feature of the architecture of which Mughal emperor's reign, marking a transition?
(A) Humayun and Akbar
(B) Babur
(C) Jahangir and Shahjahan
(D) Aurangzeb

**282.** The 'Adi Granth' contains the teachings of the Sikh Gurus and also saints like:
(A) Kabir, Ravidas, and Baba Farid
(B) Shankaracharya and Ramanuja
(C) Chaitanya and Vallabhacharya
(D) Tulsidas and Surdas

**283.** What was the status of foreign trade during the Mughal period?
(A) It was vibrant, with India having a favorable balance of trade, exporting more than it imported.
(B) It was completely banned.
(C) It was insignificant and had no impact on the economy.
(D) It was entirely controlled by the government with no private merchants.

**284.** Which of the following is a key feature of the development of architecture in South India during the medieval period?
(A) The construction of massive temple complexes with ornate gopurams and mandapas.
(B) The use of the true arch and dome.
(C) The exclusive use of red sandstone.
(D) The building of large stupas and viharas.

**285.** Consider the following statements about various philosophical schools and their proponents:
1. Shankaracharya : Advaita
2. Ramanujacharya : Vishishtadvaita
3. Madhvacharya : Dvaita
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**286.** 'Maktabs' in medieval India were primarily centers for:
(A) Primary education
(B) Higher education
(C) Military training
(D) Vocational training

**287.** The term 'Khalisa' in Mughal administration referred to:
(A) Land whose revenue was reserved for the imperial treasury.
(B) Land granted to religious figures.
(C) Land assigned to nobles as jagirs.
(D) Uncultivated wasteland.

**288.** The most distinctive feature of the social life in the Vijayanagar empire was the:
(A) Prominence of temple-centric activities.
(B) Absence of a caste system.
(C) Complete equality for women.
(D) Dominance of Persian culture.

**289.** The teachings of the Sikh Gurus strongly emphasized:
(A) Monotheism, social equality, and ethical conduct.
(B) Ritualism and idol worship.
(C) The caste system.
(D) Asceticism and withdrawal from the world.

**290.** The religious policy of Aurangzeb was marked by:
(A) A shift towards Islamic orthodoxy.
(B) Liberalism and patronage to all religions.
(C) The creation of a new religion.
(D) Indifference towards religious matters.

**291.** Which of the following was a major item of Indian export in the medieval period?
(A) Spices and textiles
(B) Heavy machinery
(C) Gold and silver
(D) Horses

**292.** The 'Pushtimarg' school of Bhakti was founded by:
(A) Vallabhacharya
(B) Ramananda

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Q. Gol Gumbaz
R. Qutub Minar
S. Use of Marble and Pietra Dura

List II: (Associated Dynasty/Ruler)
1. Delhi Sultanate (Qutb-ud-din Aibak)
2. Adil Shahi Dynasty of Bijapur
3. Akbar (Mughal)
4. Shahjahan (Mughal)

(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**271.** Which of the following best describes the social conditions in medieval Hindu society?
(A) A society structured around the Varna and Jati system, with hierarchical divisions.
(B) A casteless and egalitarian social order.
(C) A society dominated by tribal customs.
(D) A society where social mobility was very high and easy.

**272.** Consider the following statements about Mughal-Sikh relations:
1. The relations were hostile from the very beginning under Babur.
2. The martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur occurred during the reign of Jahangir.
3. The foundation of the Khalsa was a direct response to Mughal persecution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 3 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**273.** The 'Diwan-i-Khas' and 'Diwan-i-Aam' were features of the palace architecture of which empire?
(A) Mughal
(B) Vijayanagar
(C) Chola
(D) Mauryan

**274.** The Sufi concept 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud' means:
(A) Unity of Being
(B) Unity of God
(C) Unity of Prophets
(D) Unity of Law

**275.** Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I: The Bhakti movement was a monolithic movement with a single set of beliefs.
Statement II: It encompassed a wide variety of saints and beliefs, from Saguna to Nirguna, and from Vaishnavism to Shaivism.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

**276.** The major source of income for the state in medieval India was:
(A) Land revenue
(B) Income tax
(C) Customs duty on foreign trade
(D) Tributes from foreign countries

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**277.** The 'Rajasthani' school of painting is known for its depiction of themes from:
(A) Hindu epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, and Krishna Lila.
(B) The life of the Buddha.
(C) Mughal court life.
(D) The Bible.

**278.** The religious policy of which Mughal emperor is characterized by the term 'Sulh-i-Kul' (Peace with all)?
(A) Akbar
(B) Babur
(C) Shahjahan
(D) Aurangzeb

**279.** Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): The condition of women in medieval India deteriorated in some respects.
Reason (R): The prevalence of practices like Sati, Jauhar, child marriage, and the spread of the Purdah system contributed to this decline.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**280.** The most prominent Marathi Bhakti saint who popularized the 'Varkari' tradition was:

# ANSWERS

1. (B) They held limited rights, primarily to 'stridhana', which consisted of gifts received at marriage.
In medieval Indian society, the property rights of Hindu women were generally quite restricted compared to those of men. While they did not typically inherit ancestral land, they held exclusive control over stridhana. This category of property included jewelry, textiles, and other gifts received during marriage rituals, providing women with a degree of personal economic security within the household.

2. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The Bhakti movement was a diverse and multifaceted spiritual phenomenon rather than a monolithic entity. It encompassed various philosophical schools and traditions across different regions. Some prominent saints, such as Kabir and Guru Nanak, practiced Nirguna Bhakti focused on a formless divine, while others, like Tulsidas and Meera Bai, practiced Saguna Bhakti centered on deities with physical forms.

3. (C) The inlay of precious and semi-precious stones into marble.
Pietra dura is a sophisticated decorative technique that reached its peak in India during the Mughal era. It involves the precise process of carving out marble surfaces and inlaying them with polished, colored semi-precious stones to create intricate floral or geometric patterns. This artistic method is most famously showcased in the interior and exterior walls of the Taj Mahal.

4. (D) Company School
Several major schools of painting, including the Mughal, Rajasthani, and Pahari traditions, flourished during the medieval period in India. These styles reflected regional cultures and royal patronage. In contrast, the Company School emerged during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It was a hybrid style developed by Indian artists to meet the artistic preferences of British East India Company officials.

5. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Akbar introduced the Zabti or Dahsala system as a significant administrative innovation to stabilize land revenue collection. This system calculated taxes based on the average agricultural produce and market prices recorded over the previous ten years. By utilizing these long-term averages, the Mughal administration aimed to create a more predictable and fair revenue demand for both the state and peasants.

6. (B) Women were completely secluded and did not participate in any public or economic life.
Social life in the Vijayanagar Empire was dynamic, and women often enjoyed significant roles outside the domestic sphere. Historical records indicate that women were educated and participated in diverse activities, including literature, administration, accounting, and music. Some women were even trained in martial arts and wrestling, contradicting the notion that they were completely secluded from public or economic life.

7. (D) The first five Sikh Gurus and the ninth Guru.
The Adi Granth, later known as the Guru Granth Sahib, serves as the central religious scripture of Sikhism. It primarily contains the spiritual compositions and hymns of the first five Sikh Gurus. The tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, later incorporated the hymns of the ninth Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur, into the text, completing the compilation as the eternal Guru.

8. (A) Jagir
In the land revenue administration of medieval India, a jagir was a common form of revenue assignment. The state granted officials or nobles the right to collect and retain revenues from specific territories in lieu of a cash salary. While the land itself remained state property, the jagir provided the holder with a steady income to maintain their administrative and military duties.

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limited and controlled compared to those of their male counterparts.

**79.** (A) 1 and 3 only
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was a central figure in the Vaishnava Bhakti movement in Bengal, emphasizing emotional devotion to Lord Krishna. He rejected complex intellectual debates in favor of 'Sankirtan', the practice of congregational chanting and dancing to express divine love. His teachings and charismatic personality popularized Krishna devotion across Eastern India, creating a vibrant spiritual tradition that continues to flourish today.

**80.** (B) A rough estimate or valuation of revenue demand, also known as group assessment.
In the Mughal land revenue administration, 'Nasaq' was a method of assessment that relied on a rough estimate or valuation of the expected revenue from a specific area. Often referred to as group assessment, it was used when detailed measurement of land or crop-sharing was not feasible. The revenue demand was fixed based on past records and general observations of the region's agricultural productivity.

**81.** (A) Include the teachings of both Hindu and Muslim saints, reflecting an inclusive spiritual tradition.
The Guru Granth Sahib is highly significant for its uniquely inclusive nature. It contains the spiritual hymns of the Sikh Gurus alongside the compositions of numerous Hindu and Muslim saints, such as Kabir, Ravidas, and Baba Farid. This synthesis of diverse voices demonstrates the movement's commitment to universal spiritual truths and reflects the profound cultural and religious interactions characteristic of medieval India.

**82.** (A) A spiritual genealogy or order, linking a Sufi saint to his predecessors.
In Sufism, the term 'Silsila' refers to a continuous chain or spiritual genealogy that traces the lineage of a Sufi master back to his predecessors and ultimately to the Prophet. This system ensured the authentic transmission of spiritual knowledge and authority. Each silsila, such as the Chishti or Suhrawardi, had its own distinct practices and philosophies, providing a structured framework for mystical training.

**83.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The society of the Vijayanagar Empire was far from egalitarian and was characterized by a complex social hierarchy. Foreign travelers such as Nicolo Conti and Abdur Razzak observed and recorded the existence of a rigid caste system that governed social interactions. They also noted the prevalence of practices like Sati, especially among the royal and upper classes, reflecting traditional social values and customs.

**84.** (D) The order to demolish newly constructed Hindu temples.
Shahjahan's religious policy showed a gradual shift toward greater Islamic orthodoxy compared to the liberal approach of Akbar. While he generally maintained social stability, he issued orders to demolish several newly constructed Hindu temples, particularly in Varanasi. This action reflected a move away from the principle of universal tolerance and foreshadowed the more rigid religious policies that were later fully implemented by his son, Aurangzeb.

**85.** (C) A Vaishnava devotional tradition centered on the annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur to worship Vithoba.
The Varkari sect is a prominent devotional tradition in Maharashtra that focuses on the worship of Lord Vithoba, a form of Vishnu. Its followers emphasize moral living and equality, rejecting rigid caste distinctions. A defining feature of this sect is the annual 'Wari' pilgrimage to the temple at Pandharpur, accompanied by the singing of devotional poetry composed by saints like Tukaram and Gyaneshwara.

**86.** (B) Gujarat
The Buland Darwaza, or the 'Gate of Magnificence', was constructed by Akbar at Fatehpur Sikri in 1601. This massive monumental gateway was built to commemorate his successful military campaign and victory over the kingdom of Gujarat. Its grand scale and intricate design reflect the height of Mughal power and served as a lasting symbol of Akbar's imperial achievements and architectural vision.

**87.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Bhakti movement was a major catalyst for the development of regional languages in India.

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persecution and social injustice. The Khalsa members were identified by the 'Five Ks' and committed themselves to the principles of equality, courage, and faith.

**18.** (A) To represent a paradise garden, dividing the area into four quadrants with water channels.
The 'Charbagh' style is a fundamental feature of Mughal garden architecture, symbolizing the Islamic concept of a paradise garden. This design divides a walled enclosure into four equal quadrants using intersecting water channels or walkways. These gardens were often associated with tombs and palaces, creating a serene and orderly environment that reflected the Mughal aesthetic of symmetry and natural beauty.

**19.** (A) 2, 1, 3, 4
The Bhakti movement evolved over several centuries through the teachings of various saints. Shankaracharya, the proponent of Advaita, lived around the eighth century. Ramanujacharya followed in the eleventh century with his philosophy of Vishishtadvaita. Kabir emerged in the fifteenth century, challenging religious orthodoxy. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu flourished in the early sixteenth century, popularizing Krishna devotion in Bengal, thus completing the chronological sequence.

**20.** (D) Agriculture was the mainstay, and the state invested in large-scale irrigation projects like tanks and dams.
Agriculture formed the backbone of the economy in the Vijayanagar Empire. Recognizing its importance, the rulers actively promoted agricultural development by investing in extensive irrigation infrastructure. They constructed numerous large-scale tanks, canals, and dams to ensure a consistent water supply for farming. This state support helped maximize crop yields and sustained the empire's prosperity through internal trade and revenue.

**21.** (C) Aurangzeb
Aurangzeb's religious policy marked a significant departure from the liberal traditions of his predecessors. He adopted a more orthodox Islamic approach, which included the reimposition of the Jizya tax on non-Muslim subjects in 1679. Additionally, his reign saw the destruction of several prominent Hindu temples and the enforcement of stricter moral codes, reflecting his commitment to a puritanical religious vision.

**22.** (B) The devotion to and worship of Lord Shiva.
Shaivism is one of the major branches of the Bhakti tradition, centering on the intense devotion and worship of Lord Shiva. Its followers view Shiva as the supreme deity responsible for the creation, protection, and transformation of the universe. This sect produced various sub-traditions and influenced regional cultures through the hymns of saints, particularly the Nayanars of South India.

**23.** (B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
The medieval Indian economy utilized several specific terms and instruments. The Tanka was a standardized silver coin introduced by the Delhi Sultans. Banjaras were nomadic communities essential for bulk transport and trade. The Hundi functioned as a sophisticated bill of exchange or credit note for merchants. Dastur referred to the official schedule of revenue rates used for land tax assessment.

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**24.** (A) Practiced by both Hindu and Muslim communities, especially among the upper classes.
The practice of Purdah, which involved the veiling and seclusion of women, became widespread in medieval India. While it was a significant feature of Muslim social life, it was also adopted by many Hindu communities, particularly among the nobility and upper castes. The system was often seen as a mark of high social status and a means of protecting family honor.

**25.** (A) 1 and 3 only
Relations between the Mughal Empire and the Sikh community were complex and varied over time. Guru Arjan Dev was martyred during the reign of Jahangir, marking a significant conflict. Later, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed under the orders of Aurangzeb. While these were periods of intense hostility, relations were not consistently antagonistic from the very beginning of the Mughal rule.

**26.** (A) Ramanujacharya
Ramanujacharya was the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita, or qualified monism. This philosophy played a crucial role in the Vaishnava Bhakti tradition by arguing that while the

rituals, provided a vital platform for saints from marginalized backgrounds to voice their experiences. This helped create a more inclusive spiritual environment and fostered a critique of social inequalities based on birth.

**62.** (D) Deccan Sultanates - Charbagh School
Various regional schools of painting emerged in medieval India, such as the Rajasthani School and the Pahari School in the Himalayan foothills. The Mughal School flourished at the imperial court. While the Deccan Sultanates developed their own distinct and sophisticated painting style, known as the Deccani School, 'Charbagh' refers to a specific style of garden architecture and is not a school of painting.

**63.** (A) Lord Vithoba (a form of Vishnu/Krishna)
Sant Tukaram was a highly influential Marathi Bhakti saint who lived in the seventeenth century. His devotional poetry and songs, known as Abhangas, were primarily dedicated to Lord Vithoba, a regional form of Vishnu or Krishna worshipped at Pandharpur. Tukaram's simple yet profound verses emphasized pure devotion and moral conduct, making him a central figure in the Varkari tradition of Maharashtra.

**64.** (C) 2 and 3 only
The Mughal economy featured a highly centralized and standardized minting system that produced reliable gold, silver, and copper coins. Handicrafts, especially the production of fine textiles from regions like Bengal and Gujarat, were major economic pillars and significant exports. Internal trade was sustained by a network of transport that relied heavily on bullock carts for overland routes and boats for river navigation.

**65.** (B) Din-i-Ilahi
Through intensive religious discussions in the Ibadat Khana, Akbar became convinced of the underlying truth in all religions. This led him to formulate 'Din-i-Ilahi', or the 'Divine Faith'. This was not a formal religion but a syncretic ethical code that blended elements from various faiths, such as Islam, Hinduism, and Zoroastrianism, with the aim of promoting harmony and loyalty among his diverse nobility.

**66.** (A) He wrote a critical edition of the Gyaneshwari, making it accessible.
Sant Eknath was a prominent Marathi Bhakti saint who played a crucial role in revitalizing regional literature. One of his most significant contributions was compiling and producing a reliable critical edition of the 'Gyaneshwari'. By restoring this foundational text, he ensured that the teachings of Sant Gyaneshwara remained accessible to the common people, thereby strengthening the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra.

**67.** (C) The property a woman received as gifts over which she had exclusive control.
Stridhana was a specific category of property in medieval Hindu society over which a woman held exclusive rights. It typically consisted of gifts, jewelry, and movable assets received from her parents, relatives, or husband at the time of marriage or on other special occasions. Unlike ancestral property, which was managed by male kin, stridhana provided women with a personal source of wealth and economic security.

**68.** (D) The elaboration of temple complexes with large mandapas and ornate gopurams.
Medieval South Indian architecture, particularly under the Vijayanagar Empire, is renowned for its grand temple complexes. A distinctive feature of this style was the addition of large, multi-pillared halls known as 'Kalyana Mandapas' and massive, ornate entrance towers called 'Gopurams'. These structures were decorated with elaborate stone carvings and sculptures, reflecting the empire's immense wealth and its deep-seated patronage of religious institutions.

**69.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The Adi Granth was compiled and edited by the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev, rather than Guru Gobind Singh. This holy scripture is unique because it incorporates not only the hymns of the Sikh Gurus but also the spiritual compositions of various Hindu and Muslim saints. This inclusion of voices like Kabir, Ravidas, and Baba Farid reflects the inclusive and universal spiritual vision of the Sikh tradition.

**70.** (B) Aurangzeb
During Aurangzeb's reign, the imperial patronage of painting declined significantly as

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managing the local administration and revenue collection within their assigned regions.

**36.** (D) Common garments forming part of male attire.
In medieval India, clothing styles were influenced by a blend of indigenous and Persian traditions. The 'Jama' was a long, tunic-like garment or coat that was tied at the side, while 'Pajama' referred to loose-fitting trousers. These garments became standard components of male attire, especially among the nobility and urban classes, reflecting the evolving cultural and fashion trends of the period.

**37.** (B) 1 and 2 only
The Vijayanagar Empire was a vibrant center for literary production, with rulers actively patronizing works in Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, and Tamil. Krishnadevaraya, a notable scholar-king, contributed significantly to Telugu literature by authoring the work Amuktamalyada. While religious themes were prominent, the literature of this period also encompassed diverse secular subjects, including poetry, grammar, music, and political theory.

**38.** (B) The female principle, the Goddess or Devi, as the ultimate reality.
The Shakta tradition is a major branch of Hinduism that focuses on the worship of Shakti, the divine female principle. In this sect, the Goddess or Devi is revered as the ultimate reality and the source of all creative energy in the universe. During the medieval period, Shaktism flourished through various rituals, philosophical texts, and the popular worship of diverse forms of the Goddess.

**39.** (D) Irrigation in agriculture
The introduction of the Persian wheel, or 'Saqiya', was a technological advancement that significantly impacted medieval Indian agriculture. This device allowed for the efficient lifting of water from deep wells to irrigate fields. By providing a more reliable water supply, the Persian wheel enabled farmers to cultivate more land and produce multiple crops per year, thereby boosting agricultural productivity and rural prosperity.

**40.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
Babur and Humayun, the early Mughal emperors, were primarily focused on establishing and consolidating their precarious rule in India. While they identified as Muslim rulers, their religious policies were generally pragmatic rather than fanatical. They largely followed a policy of tolerance toward the majority Hindu population, as maintaining social stability was essential for the survival and expansion of their newly formed empire.

**41.** (C) He promoted the idea of renouncing the world and living as an ascetic.
Guru Nanak's teachings focused on a practical and ethical spiritual path within society. He advocated for a monotheistic belief in one formless God and strongly criticized ritualism and caste hierarchies. Importantly, he rejected asceticism and world-renunciation, instead emphasizing that individuals should lead an honest householder's life while remaining devoted to God and sharing their earnings with the needy.

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**42.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Mughal emperors are famously associated with specific architectural achievements. Akbar built the magnificent city of Fatehpur Sikri. Shahjahan commissioned the Taj Mahal as a mausoleum for his wife. Jahangir's reign saw the construction of the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah, which introduced advanced marble inlay work. Humayun's Tomb, built by his widow, served as a precursor to the grand architectural style of later Mughal monuments.

**43.** (D) Seeking a direct, personal experience of God through love and devotion.
Sufism emerged as the mystical dimension of Islam, emphasizing the internal spiritual journey over external legalism. The primary goal of Sufi practitioners was to attain a direct, personal experience of the Divine through deep love, devotion, and various spiritual disciplines. This approach often fostered a message of universal brotherhood and peace, making Sufism highly influential across diverse social and religious groups.

**9.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Medieval India witnessed various philosophical developments within the Bhakti tradition. Shankaracharya propounded the Advaita Vedanta school, emphasizing non-dualism. Ramanujacharya introduced Vishishtadvaita, or qualified monism. Vallabhacharya established the Pushtimarg tradition focused on Krishna devotion. Kabir became a leading figure of the Nirguna Bhakti movement, which rejected idol worship and emphasized a formless conception of the divine through simple, direct verses.

**10.** (A) Chaupar (a traditional board game)
Entertainment in medieval Indian society was diverse and enjoyed by both royalty and the common populace. Traditional board games like Chaupar were extremely popular and frequently played in courts and homes. Other common pastimes included chess, animal fights, wrestling, and polo. These activities provided social interaction and recreation, reflecting the cultural fabric and leisure interests of people across different social strata.

**11.** (C) 1 and 3 only
Sufism in India was categorized into 'ba-shara' orders, which followed Islamic law, and 'be-shara' orders, which operated outside it. The concept of 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud', or the Unity of Being, was a central philosophical tenet for many Sufi mystics. Unlike some other orders, the Chishti silsila generally avoided state politics and accumulated wealth, preferring a life of simplicity and spiritual devotion.

**12.** (B) Akbar
Akbar promoted the principle of 'Sulh-i-Kul', which translates to universal peace and harmony, as the foundation of his religious policy. This approach encouraged tolerance and mutual respect among the diverse religious communities within the Mughal Empire. By integrating leaders and traditions from various faiths, Akbar sought to create a stable, unified state based on a shared ethical and cultural framework.

**13.** (C) Maktabs were centers for primary education, while Madrasas were institutions of higher learning.
The educational system in medieval India was structured around Maktabs and Madrasas. Maktabs functioned as primary schools, often attached to local mosques, where children learned basic reading, writing, and religious fundamentals. Madrasas were institutions of higher learning that provided advanced instruction in subjects such as theology, Islamic law, philosophy, mathematics, and science, training individuals for administrative and religious careers.

**14.** (D) Peasants who cultivated their own land in the village where they resided.
In the agrarian structure of medieval India, 'Khud-kashta' referred to a specific category of peasants. These individuals were resident cultivators who owned the land they tilled within their own village. They generally enjoyed a higher social and economic status compared to other peasant groups, as they possessed hereditary rights to their fields and participated directly in the village community.

**15.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Jahangir's reign is widely considered the zenith of Mughal painting due to his deep personal interest and patronage of the arts. He encouraged artists to move away from collective manuscript illustration toward individual specialization. This shift resulted in highly detailed and realistic portraiture, as well as meticulous studies of nature, including birds, animals, and flowers, captured by his personal atelier.

**16.** (B) Kabir - Padmavat
During the medieval period, several significant literary works were produced by renowned authors and saints. Tulsidas wrote the Ramcharitmanas, and Abul Fazl authored the Akbarnama. Krishnadevaraya was the author of the Telugu work Amuktamalyada. However, the epic poem Padmavat was written by Malik Muhammad Jayasi, not Kabir, who is primarily known for his devotional couplets called Bijak and Sakhis.

**17.** (B) Guru Gobind Singh
The establishment of the Khalsa in 1699 was a transformative event in Sikh history, led by Guru Gobind Singh. By creating this disciplined military and spiritual order, the Guru aimed to unify the Sikh community against religious

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on Hindu philosophy and the intellectual defense of traditional thought.

**53.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
Food habits in medieval India were far from uniform and varied significantly based on social class and regional availability. The diet of the nobility was characterized by elaborate and rich dishes, often influenced by Persian culinary traditions, featuring various meats, spices, and exotic fruits. In contrast, the common people consumed a simple diet based on locally grown cereals, pulses, and seasonal vegetables.

**54.** (B) Largely a continuation of Akbar's liberal policies, though with some individual instances of orthodoxy.
Jahangir generally maintained the liberal religious policies established by his father, Akbar, which fostered social stability. He continued to patronize diverse religious groups and participated in various festivals. However, his reign also included specific instances of religious orthodoxy, such as the execution of Guru Arjan Dev, which were often motivated by political concerns rather than a systematic program of religious persecution.

**55.** (A) 4, 3, 1, 2
The Sikh Gurus followed a specific chronological order of leadership. Guru Angad Dev was the second Guru, followed by Guru Ram Das as the fourth. Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Guru, compiled the Adi Granth. He was succeeded by Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru, who introduced a more martial aspect to the faith. This sequence reflects the early development and expansion of the Sikh community.

**56.** (A) The mass self-immolation of women to avoid capture and dishonor by enemies.
Jauhar was a ritual practice in medieval Hindu society, primarily among Rajput women during times of war. When a fort or city faced inevitable defeat, women would perform mass self-immolation to protect their honor and avoid capture, enslavement, or dishonor by the invading forces. This practice was often performed simultaneously with 'Shaka', where the men fought to their deaths in battle.

**57.** (C) Tamralipti
During the medieval period, the western coast of India hosted several thriving ports that facilitated global maritime trade. Surat, Calicut, and Cambay were major centers for the exchange of textiles, spices, and other goods. Tamralipti, however, was a prominent ancient and early medieval port located on the eastern coast in the Bengal region, serving trade routes across the Bay of Bengal.

**58.** (A) Moinuddin Chishti
The Chishti Sufi order was established in India by Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in the late twelfth century. He settled in Ajmer, where his simple lifestyle and message of universal love and compassion attracted people from all walks of life. His disciples and successors, such as Nizamuddin Auliya and Baba Farid, further expanded the order's influence, making it the most popular Sufi silsila in India.

**59.** (C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
Medieval economic administration utilized various taxes and land categories. Kharaj was the primary land revenue tax paid by peasants. Khums represented the state's share of war booty or treasure trove. Khalisa referred to territories whose revenues were directly collected for the central imperial treasury. Batai was a common crop-sharing system where the state and the cultivator divided the actual harvest in fixed proportions.

**60.** (B) Manufacture and supply luxury goods and articles for the needs of the court and army.
Royal workshops, known as 'karkhanas', were essential institutions under the Delhi Sultans and Mughal emperors. These centers employed skilled artisans to produce a wide range of high-quality items, including luxury textiles, jewelry, weapons, and furniture. The primary purpose of these karkhanas was to meet the sophisticated demands of the imperial court and to provide the necessary equipment for the large standing army.

**61.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Sant Ravidas, born into the leather-working community, used his spiritual authority to challenge the hierarchical caste system of medieval India. The Bhakti movement, by emphasizing direct devotion over complex

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individual soul and the material world are distinct, they are ultimately inseparable from the supreme reality, Vishnu. His teachings provided a strong intellectual foundation for emotional devotion and the accessibility of spiritual salvation.

**27.** (D) Textiles, various spices, and indigo
During the medieval period, India was a global leader in trade, exporting high-demand goods to Europe and Asia. Fine textiles, including cotton and silk fabrics, were the most significant exports. Other major items included various spices like pepper and cinnamon, as well as indigo, a valuable blue dye. These exports ensured a favorable balance of trade and brought significant wealth.

**28.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
Social conditions for women in medieval Muslim society included specific legal rights derived from Islamic law. These rights allowed for the possibility of divorce and the remarriage of widows, practices that were often more restricted in contemporary Hindu society. Furthermore, Muslim women were legally entitled to inherit a specific share of their parents' property, providing them with some economic independence.

**29.** (C) Sant Gyaneshwara
Sant Gyaneshwara was a transformative figure in the Marathi Bhakti tradition. In the late thirteenth century, he wrote the Gyaneshwari, an extensive and profound commentary on the Bhagavad Gita in the Marathi language. By translating and explaining complex Sanskrit philosophical concepts into the vernacular, he made spiritual knowledge accessible to the common people, laying the foundation for Maharashtra's Bhakti movement.

**30.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Urbanization expanded significantly during the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal periods due to the establishment of centralized administrative structures. The concentration of the imperial court, nobility, and military forces in specific centers created a high demand for luxury goods and services. This encouraged artisans, merchants, and laborers to settle in these areas, fueling the rapid growth of towns and cities.

**31.** (A) Tughlaq style
The architectural style of the Tughlaq dynasty is distinguished by its austere and robust character. Key features include the use of sloping walls, known as 'batter', and massive circular bastions for fortification. This style prioritized strength and durability over elaborate ornamentation, as seen in monuments like Tughlaqabad Fort and the tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, reflecting the military concerns of the period.

**32.** (B) Kabir
Kabir was a prominent disciple of the saint Ramananda and a central figure in the Nirguna Bhakti movement. He is famous for his Dohas, or short couplets, which used simple, forceful language to criticize religious hypocrisy, empty rituals, and the rigid caste system. His teachings emphasized the unity of God and the equality of all human beings, regardless of faith.

**33.** (B) Jizya
In the fiscal system of many medieval Islamic states in India, Jizya was a poll tax levied specifically on non-Muslim subjects. This tax was theoretically collected in exchange for state protection and exemption from military service. The implementation of Jizya varied significantly between different rulers, with Akbar abolishing it during his reign and Aurangzeb later reimposing it as part of his orthodox policy.

**34.** (A) 2, 4, 3, 1
The Mughal Empire followed a specific chronological succession of rulers. Humayun was the second emperor, succeeding Babur. He was followed by his son Akbar, who greatly expanded the empire. Akbar's son Jahangir then took the throne, followed by his own son, Shahjahan. This sequence represents the peak period of Mughal power and cultural development in the Indian subcontinent.

**35.** (C) Vijayanagar Empire
The Nayankara system was a vital administrative and military framework of the Vijayanagar Empire. Under this system, the king assigned specific territories, known as 'amaram', to military commanders called Nayakas. In return, these Nayakas were responsible for maintaining a fixed number of troops for the king's service and

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his interests shifted toward architectural projects and the enforcement of orthodox religious practices. He considered certain forms of artistic expression, including music and fine painting, to be inconsistent with his puritanical vision of Islam. Consequently, many court artists sought patronage in regional courts, leading to the growth of various provincial schools of painting.

**71.** (D) Baha-ud-din Zakariya
The Suhrawardi Sufi order, established in India by Baha-ud-din Zakariya, differed significantly from the Chishti order in its approach to the state. While the Chishtis preferred a life of poverty and avoided political involvement, the Suhrawardis believed that spiritual leaders could accept state patronage and official positions to better serve the community. This order gained considerable influence, particularly in the regions of Multan and Sindh.

**72.** (A) 2, 4, 1, 3
Several key events shaped Mughal-Sikh history in chronological order. Guru Arjan Dev compiled the Adi Granth in the early 1600s, but his martyrdom occurred in 1606 under Jahangir. Later, in 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed on Aurangzeb's orders. Finally, in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa, a disciplined military order, to protect the Sikh community against continued Mughal persecution and oppression.

**73.** (C) Vallabhacharya
Vallabhacharya founded the 'Pushtimarg', or the 'Path of Grace', a prominent school of Vaishnavism. This tradition centers on the selfless devotion to Lord Krishna, particularly in his child form as Shrinathji. Vallabhacharya taught that spiritual liberation is achieved through the grace of God rather than through individual effort alone. His philosophy and the ritual practices he established remain highly influential among Krishna devotees today.

**74.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Foreign trade was a cornerstone of the Mughal economy, consistently yielding a favorable balance of trade for India. Global demand for Indian cotton textiles, silk, and spices remained exceptionally high. To pay for these goods, foreign merchants imported vast quantities of gold and silver bullion. This influx of precious metals, along with imports of horses and luxury items, sustained India's wealth and economic stability.

**75.** (D) Varkari
Medieval India saw several prominent branches of Shaivism, including the Pashupata, Kapalika, and Kalamukha sects, each with distinct rituals and philosophical outlooks centered on Lord Shiva. However, the Varkari tradition is a Vaishnava devotional sect from Maharashtra. Centered on the worship of Lord Vithoba, a form of Vishnu, the Varkaris are famous for their annual pilgrimages and the devotional poetry of saints like Tukaram and Gyaneshwara.

**76.** (B) To train a class of theologians, jurists, and administrators for the state.
The educational institutions of medieval India, particularly the Madrasas, were primarily designed to meet the administrative and religious needs of the state. These institutions provided specialized instruction in Islamic theology, jurisprudence, and various languages. By producing a skilled class of scholars, judges, and officials, the Madrasas ensured the smooth functioning of the legal system and the broader imperial administration.

**77.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Medieval literature was produced in various languages across the Indian subcontinent. Tulsidas wrote the Ramcharitmanas in the Awadhi dialect of Hindi. Krishnadevaraya composed Amuktamalyada in Telugu. The Guru Granth Sahib features Gurmukhi script and Punjabi language along with other dialects. The Akbarnama, being an official imperial chronicle, was written in Persian, which was the primary language of the Mughal court and administration.

**78.** (D) Women had absolute and equal rights to men in all matters of divorce and inheritance.
While Muslim women in medieval India possessed certain legal rights under Islamic law, such as the right to a dower (Mehr), widow remarriage, and a specific share of inheritance, they did not enjoy absolute equality with men. Social customs were often patriarchal, and women's rights in matters of divorce and property were frequently more

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**44.** (B) A Pahi-kashta
In Mughal agrarian terminology, peasants were classified based on their residency and land rights. A peasant who lived in one village but cultivated land located in a different village was known as a 'Pahi-kashta'. These non-resident cultivators often worked on a temporary or contractual basis and generally lacked the hereditary ownership rights enjoyed by the 'Khud-kashta' peasants who resided on the land they tilled.

**45.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur by Aurangzeb was a critical turning point that fundamentally altered Mughal-Sikh relations. This event led his son and successor, Guru Gobind Singh, to conclude that spiritual devotion must be paired with physical self-defense. Consequently, he militarized the Sikh community and founded the Khalsa, creating a disciplined force capable of resisting Mughal persecution and political oppression.

**46.** (D) Meerabai
Meerabai was a celebrated female Bhakti saint and a Rajput princess from Rajasthan. She is renowned for her profound devotion to Lord Krishna, whom she considered her divine husband. Her soul-stirring devotional songs, known as Bhajans, were composed in the vernacular Rajasthani and Braj dialects, making her message of love and surrender highly popular across the Indian subcontinent for centuries.

**47.** (A) The composition of Bhakti and Sufi literature in the vernacular to reach the common people.
The growth of regional languages like Braj Bhasha and Awadhi was primarily driven by the Bhakti and Sufi movements. Saints and mystics deliberately chose to compose their hymns, poetry, and teachings in the local dialects spoken by the masses rather than in formal Sanskrit or Persian. This made spiritual ideas accessible to everyone, regardless of their education, and greatly enriched regional literary traditions.

**48.** (B) Meerabai - Rajasthan
The Bhakti movement featured various regional saints who influenced local cultures. Meerabai was a prominent saint from Rajasthan, famous for her Krishna devotion. Sant Gyaneshwara was a key figure in Maharashtra, not Bengal. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was the leading saint of the Bhakti tradition in Bengal, not Maharashtra. Kabir's influence was primarily centered in North India, specifically the region around Varanasi, rather than South India.

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**49.** (A) A religious tithe obligatory for affluent Muslims, used for charitable purposes.
In the fiscal systems of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire, Zakat was a specific religious tax levied only on affluent Muslims. It was calculated as a percentage of their accumulated wealth and property. The proceeds from Zakat were designated for charitable purposes, such as assisting the poor, supporting orphans, and maintaining religious institutions, reflecting the Islamic principle of social welfare.

**50.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Music flourished during the medieval period, with Dhrupad emerging as a major classical form. Amir Khusrau is traditionally credited with introducing the Sitar and Tabla. While some rulers like Aurangzeb later restricted music, it was highly patronized in Akbar's court. Akbar was a great lover of music and supported numerous musicians, including the legendary Tansen, who was one of his 'Nine Jewels'.

**51.** (C) Vijayanagar Empire
Gopurams are monumental, highly ornate entrance towers that became a defining characteristic of South Indian temple architecture during the medieval period. This style reached its peak under the patronage of the Vijayanagar rulers. They added these massive structures to existing temple complexes and new constructions, decorating them with intricate sculptures of deities and mythological scenes to reflect the empire's grandeur and religious devotion.

**52.** (D) Advaita (Non-dualism)
Shankaracharya was a pivotal philosopher who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. This school of thought emphasizes non-dualism, teaching that the individual soul (Atman) and the ultimate reality (Brahman) are essentially one and the same. His intellectual synthesis and extensive commentaries on the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita had a profound and lasting impact

Bhakti saints intentionally composed their hymns and teachings in the vernacular languages spoken by the common people, such as Braj, Awadhi, and Marathi. By choosing these local dialects over formal Sanskrit, they made profound spiritual and philosophical ideas accessible to everyone, regardless of their social standing or education.

**88.** (A) The issuance of a large number of gold coins (Varahas) and a flourishing overseas trade.
The economy of the Vijayanagar Empire was highly developed and prosperous. The state issued a significant number of gold coins, known as 'Varahas' or 'Pagodas', indicating a sophisticated monetary system. Additionally, the empire benefited from a flourishing overseas trade through its control over major ports. Merchants exported textiles, spices, and precious stones to global markets, bringing immense wealth and diverse goods.

**89.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Various spiritual and political traditions shaped medieval India. Akbar promoted 'Sulh-i-Kul', or universal peace. The Sufi concept of 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud' emphasized the unity of being. Shankaracharya was the leading figure of Advaita Vedanta philosophy. Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa as a disciplined military and spiritual order. Together, these diverse influences created a complex and dynamic religious landscape across the subcontinent.

**90.** (A) Krishnadevaraya
The court of the Vijayanagar ruler Krishnadevaraya was a major center for art and literature. It was famously adorned by the 'Ashtadiggajas', a group of eight exceptionally talented Telugu poets. Their presence reflected the king's deep personal interest in literature and his generous patronage of regional languages. This period is considered the golden age of Telugu literature, producing numerous classic works that are still revered.

**91.** (D) Realistic portraits and detailed studies of flora and fauna.
Under Emperor Jahangir, Mughal painting moved away from collective manuscript illustration toward highly individualistic and naturalistic styles. Jahangir was a passionate connoisseur who encouraged his artists to create realistic portraits and meticulous, scientific-style studies of the natural world. This era saw the production of exquisite paintings of rare birds, animals, and flowers, capturing the minute details and vibrant colors of nature.

**92.** (A) 2 only
Peasants in medieval India were a diverse and stratified group with varying levels of wealth and land rights. The state's land revenue demand was typically quite high, often ranging from one-third to one-half of the total produce. While their mobility was sometimes restricted by debt or social ties, peasants frequently abandoned their lands during periods of extreme taxation or severe famine to seek better conditions elsewhere.

**93.** (C) Devotion to one formless God and the equality of all humankind.
The teachings of the Sikh Gurus are centered on the core principles of monotheism and social justice. They emphasized the worship of one formless, eternal God and the fundamental equality of all human beings, regardless of their caste, gender, or religion. By rejecting rituals and idol worship, the Gurus promoted a simple, ethical life focused on meditation, honest labor, and selfless service to the community.

**94.** (B) A society governed by the varna system, but with the proliferation of numerous jatis (castes) and sub-castes.
During the medieval period, Hindu society continued to be structured around the traditional Varna system. However, it also saw the growth and proliferation of hundreds of 'jatis' and sub-castes based on regional identities and occupational specializations. This created a highly complex and hierarchical social fabric where an individual's status, social interactions, and professional opportunities were largely determined by their birth into a specific caste.

**95.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The architecture of the Vijayanagar Empire was not an isolated development but rather an evolution of existing South Indian styles. It creatively synthesized and elaborated upon the traditions of previous dynasties such as the Cholas, Pandyas, and Hoysalas. This continuation is particularly evident in their massive temple complexes, which featured grand pillared halls

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suggesting that all of creation is essentially a manifestation of a single reality. This intellectual parallel facilitated meaningful interactions between Sufi mystics and Indian philosophers, contributing to the unique syncretic culture of medieval India.

**129.** (A) 2, 4, 3, 1
Several major Indian monuments were constructed in a specific chronological order over several centuries. Construction of the Qutub Minar began in the late twelfth century. Humayun's Tomb was built in the 1560s. The Buland Darwaza was completed in 1601 to commemorate Akbar's victory in Gujarat. Finally, the Taj Mahal was commissioned by Shah Jahan in the 1630s, representing the culmination of the grand Mughal architectural style.

**130.** (A) Rajasthani painting
The Kishangarh school is a highly refined and distinctive sub-school of Rajasthani painting. It is famous for its stylized and graceful depictions of human figures, most notably the 'Bani Thani' portrait, which is often called the 'Indian Mona Lisa'. The school's themes were frequently drawn from the devotional legends of Radha and Krishna, characterized by lyrical compositions, elongated features, and a sophisticated use of color and light.

**131.** (A) Some women were highly educated and involved in literature, administration, and even wrestling, while practices like Sati were also prevalent.
The social status of women in the Vijayanagar Empire was multifaceted and complex. While many women occupied traditional roles, historical records show that some were highly educated and held positions in administration, accounting, and the court. There are also accounts of women participating in literature and physical sports like wrestling. However, this period also saw the prevalence of traditional practices like Sati, especially among the upper and royal classes.

**132.** (C) 1 and 3 only
The Bhakti movement was divided into two main traditions based on the conception of the divine. Kabir and Guru Nanak were prominent proponents of 'Nirguna' Bhakti, which focuses on the worship of a formless, attribute-less, and omnipresent God. In contrast, Tulsidas practiced 'Saguna' Bhakti, which involves devotion to God in a specific physical form with human attributes, such as his devotion to Lord Rama as portrayed in the Ramcharitmanas.

**133.** (A) Generally pragmatic, without the bigotry of a religious zealot, though he did not hesitate to use religious rhetoric for political ends.
Babur's religious policy was primarily shaped by his immediate need to establish and consolidate his new empire in India. While he identified as a Muslim ruler and sometimes used religious rhetoric to motivate his troops during battle, his overall approach was pragmatic rather than fanatical. He generally avoided systematic persecution or widespread temple destruction, as maintaining the cooperation of the local population was essential for the survival of his rule.

**134.** (A) The Chishtis generally maintained distance from the state and lived in poverty, while the Suhrawardis accepted state grants and positions.
The Chishti and Suhrawardi Sufi orders represented different approaches to their relationship with worldly power. The Chishtis generally followed a policy of 'poverty and resignation', avoiding involvement in state politics and rejecting official grants. In contrast, the Suhrawardi order believed that spiritual leaders could effectively use state patronage and hold administrative positions to influence the government and better serve the religious and social needs of the Muslim community.

**135.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Mughal Empire maintained a highly efficient and centralized minting system. They produced gold, silver, and copper coins that were strictly standardized in terms of weight and purity across the entire empire. This uniformity and the high quality of the currency provided a reliable medium of exchange, which significantly facilitated both regional and long-distance trade, reduced transaction costs, and encouraged the overall growth of the medieval Indian economy.

**136.** (A) A system of assigning the revenue of a piece of land to a noble in lieu of a cash salary.
The Jagir system was a fundamental administrative feature of the Mughal Empire.

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and Nizamuddin Auliya were key figures of the Chishti order, known for its message of universal love. Baha-ud-din Zakariya led the Suhrawardi order, which often accepted state patronage. Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi was a prominent leader of the Naqshbandi order, which emphasized a stricter adherence to traditional Islamic law and resisted religious innovations.

**105.** (C) Persian (Farsi)
Persian served as the primary language of administration, law, and high culture throughout the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire. It was the language of the court, official records, and most scholarly and literary production. The widespread use of Persian fostered a common cultural elite across the empire and facilitated communication between diverse regional groups, significantly influencing the development of regional languages like Urdu and Hindustani.

**106.** (C) 2 and 3 only
The art of painting in the Vijayanagar Empire focused primarily on religious narratives and mythological themes from the Hindu epics. Prominent examples of this tradition are found in the vibrant murals at Lepakshi and Hampi. The style represents a continuation and development of earlier Chalukyan and Hoysala artistic traditions, characterized by strong outlines, expressive figures, and a focus on capturing spiritual and mythological stories.

**107.** (D) Kirtan (devotional singing)
In 1699, Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa and introduced a formal initiation ceremony. Members were required to adopt the 'Five Ks' as symbols of their faith and commitment: Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (comb), Kirpan (sword), Kara (iron bracelet), and Kachera (cotton undergarments). While Kirtan, or devotional singing, is a central practice in Sikh worship, it is not considered one of the five mandatory physical symbols.

**108.** (B) Akbar
Akbar's land revenue system, known as the Dahsala or Zabti system, was a highly sophisticated administrative achievement. It involved the systematic measurement of land and its classification based on fertility. Revenue was fixed in cash by calculating the average yield and market prices of various crops over the preceding ten years. This method provided the Mughal state with a more stable and predictable income while reducing disputes with cultivators.

**109.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The Bhakti and Sufi movements were influential in challenging religious and social orthodoxies in medieval India. Many saints from these traditions preached the message of spiritual equality and criticized caste discrimination. However, while these ideas gained popularity, they did not fundamentally dismantle the rigid social structure. The overall societal framework remained largely hierarchical, and the caste system continued to govern most aspects of an individual's social and economic life.

**110.** (D) Pietra dura
Pietra dura is a decorative art form that involves inlaying semi-precious stones like lapis lazuli, jasper, and carnelian into precisely carved marble surfaces. This technique became a hallmark of Mughal architecture during the seventeenth century, particularly under the patronage of Shah Jahan. It allowed for the creation of intricate, colorful floral and geometric motifs on buildings, adding a level of sophisticated elegance and permanence to their ornamental designs.

**111.** (D) Maharashtra
The 'Abhangas' are a specific form of devotional poetry that flourished in Maharashtra during the medieval period. These verses were composed by Marathi Bhakti saints, most notably Sant Tukaram and Sant Namdev. Abhangas are characterized by their simple language, emotional intensity, and focus on devotion to Lord Vithoba of Pandharpur. They played a crucial role in making spiritual ideas accessible to the common people and remain central to Maharashtrian culture.

**112.** (A) The Guru's alleged support for Jahangir's rebellious son, Khusrau.
The initial conflict between Guru Arjan Dev and Emperor Jahangir was primarily triggered by political rather than purely religious reasons. Following the death of Akbar, Prince Khusrau rebelled against his father, Jahangir. The Emperor accused Guru Arjan Dev of providing financial and spiritual support to the rebellious prince. This alleged act of defiance led to the Guru's

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and ornate towers, blending traditional motifs with new structural innovations.

**96.** (B) The recitation of musical and poetic performances to induce a spiritual state.
In Sufism, 'Sama' is a spiritual practice involving the listening to devotional music and the recitation of poetry. It was intended to induce a state of mystical ecstasy and bring the practitioner closer to a personal experience of the divine. While highly popular among many Sufi orders, Sama remained a point of controversy for some orthodox theologians who questioned its compatibility with traditional Islamic law.

**97.** (B) Nirguna devotion, emphasizing a formless God
Sant Singaji was a highly revered Bhakti saint from the Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh. His spiritual path was characterized by 'Nirguna' devotion, which emphasizes the worship of a formless and attribute-less God rather than physical idols. Like other Nirguna saints, his teachings focused on inner spiritual purity and the unity of all creation, using simple vernacular verses to communicate with the local population.

**98.** (A) To create a grand and imposing exterior silhouette while maintaining a proportionate ceiling for the interior room.
The introduction of the 'double dome' was a significant architectural innovation in medieval India. This design featured an inner dome and a separate, taller outer dome. The primary purpose was to provide a grand and impressive external appearance to the building while ensuring that the interior ceiling remained at a height that was visually and acoustically proportionate to the scale of the room inside.

**99.** (C) Instruments of credit and remittance, similar to modern bills of exchange.
In the medieval Indian economy, 'Hundis' were sophisticated financial instruments used extensively by merchants and traders. They functioned as bills of exchange or credit notes, allowing individuals to remit large sums of money across vast distances without the risk of carrying physical cash. This system facilitated regional and international trade, reflecting the advanced level of commercial and banking practices prevalent during the period.

**100.** (D) The patronage and construction of many new Hindu temples.
Aurangzeb's religious policy was marked by a shift toward strict Islamic orthodoxy. He reimposed the Jizya tax, discontinued court practices like 'jharokha-darshan', and banned music at the imperial court. Importantly, his reign did not involve the patronage or construction of new Hindu temples. Instead, he ordered the destruction of several existing prominent temples that he viewed as centers of political defiance or religious heterodoxy.

**101.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Internal and foreign trade flourished in medieval India due to the relative political stability provided by large empires like the Mughals. The state established an extensive network of secure roads and 'sarais' for travelers, which facilitated the movement of goods. Furthermore, the introduction of a standardized and reliable currency system helped reduce transaction costs and encouraged merchants to engage in large-scale commercial activities across the subcontinent.

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**102.** (B) Tulsidas
Tulsidas was a prominent Bhakti saint whose most famous work is the 'Ramcharitmanas'. Written in the Awadhi dialect of Hindi, this retelling of the Ramayana made the story of Rama accessible to the common masses who did not understand Sanskrit. His epic poem had a profound impact on North Indian culture and religion, becoming one of the most widely read and revered texts in the region.

**103.** (D) Gown or coat
In the context of medieval Indian attire, the 'Jama' was a long, tunic-like gown or coat worn by men. It was usually tied at the side and reached down to the knees or ankles. The style and fabric of the Jama often indicated the social status of the wearer. While commoners wore simple cotton versions, the nobility used expensive fabrics like silk and brocade decorated with intricate embroidery.

**104.** (A) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
Sufism in India was organized into various influential orders, or silsilas. Moinuddin Chishti

the primary means of transporting bulk goods. This labor-intensive but effective transport system was often managed by specialized nomadic communities like the Banjaras. They moved essential commodities like salt, grain, and textiles across vast distances, connecting agricultural regions with major urban and commercial centers and ensuring the steady supply of goods.

**121.** (B) 2 and 3 only
Aurangzeb's religious policy was characterized by a move toward Islamic orthodoxy. He reimposed the Jizya tax on non-Muslims in 1679 and ordered the destruction of several Hindu temples that he viewed as centers of political opposition. While he discouraged certain court practices and public celebrations, he did not completely ban all Hindu festivals throughout the entire empire, although many public displays were restricted or discouraged during his reign.

**122.** (B) It accords the status of a living Guru to the holy scripture itself.
The Guru Granth Sahib holds a unique position among the world's scriptures because it is revered as the living Guru of the Sikh community. Before his passing, the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh, declared that the line of human Gurus would end with him and that the spiritual authority of the Guruship was being eternally transferred to the holy scripture, providing a permanent and unchanging guide for the faithful.

**123.** (C) Textile dyeing and printing
Kalamkari and Bandhani are traditional and highly skilled techniques of textile dyeing and printing that flourished in medieval India. Kalamkari involves intricate hand-painting or block-printing on cotton fabrics using natural dyes. Bandhani is a tie-dye process where fabrics are tied in small knots to create complex patterns. These industries produced beautiful textiles that were highly prized both locally and as major exports to global markets.

**124.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The Bhakti movement was not confined to North India; in fact, its early roots can be traced to South India. Between the seventh and ninth centuries, the Alvars (devoted to Vishnu) and Nayanars (devoted to Shiva) composed intense devotional hymns in the Tamil language. These southern traditions gradually spread northward, eventually influencing the wider Bhakti movement across the entire subcontinent and inspiring numerous regional saints and poets.

**125.** (A) Literate and religiously knowledgeable individuals who could serve the state
The educational system in medieval India, centered on Maktabs and Madrasas, primarily aimed to produce a skilled class of officials and scholars. Students were taught various languages, theology, Islamic law, and administrative principles. This ensured a steady supply of literate and religiously knowledgeable individuals who were equipped to serve as judges, clerks, and administrators within the legal and bureaucratic structures of the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Empire.

**126.** (A) Meerabai - Punjab
During the medieval period, many Bhakti saints were associated with specific regions where they exerted their greatest influence. Sant Gyaneshwara was a key figure in Maharashtra. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was the primary saint of the Bhakti tradition in Bengal. Ramananda focused his spiritual activities in North India, specifically around Prayag and Varanasi. Meerabai, however, was a prominent saint from Rajasthan, not Punjab, famous for her intense devotion to Lord Krishna.

**127.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Vijayanagar Empire enjoyed significant economic prosperity due to several factors. Its control over the fertile Raichur doab provided a strong agricultural base, while its strategic location allowed it to dominate profitable sea ports on both the western and eastern coasts. The revenue generated from these ports, combined with a well-managed land revenue system and thriving internal trade, created immense wealth for the state and sustained its grand architectural projects.

**128.** (A) Advaita Vedanta of Shankaracharya
The Sufi philosophical concept of 'Wahdat-ul-Wujud', or the 'Unity of Being', shares significant similarities with the Indian school of Advaita Vedanta. Both systems emphasize the ultimate unity of the divine and the material world,

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imprisonment and subsequent martyrdom, significantly straining the relationship between the two.

**113.** (A) A synthesis of Persian, Central Asian, and indigenous Indian architectural traditions.
Mughal architecture in North India is characterized by a magnificent synthesis of diverse styles. It integrated the domes and arches of Persian and Central Asian traditions with the skilled stonework, decorative motifs, and courtyard layouts of indigenous Indian architecture. This unique blend, developed under the patronage of emperors like Akbar and Shah Jahan, produced iconic monuments that combined structural innovation with exquisite artistic detail and symmetry.

**114.** (D) Non-resident cultivators who tilled land in a village other than their own.
In the agrarian structure of medieval India, the term 'Pahi-kashta' referred to non-resident peasants. Unlike the 'Khud-kashta' who lived and tilled land in their own village, Pahi-kashtas traveled to other villages to cultivate land, often on a contractual or temporary basis. They were essential for bringing additional land under cultivation, but they generally lacked the hereditary rights and social standing of the resident village community members.

**115.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Vijayanagar rulers were renowned for their extensive patronage of the arts and literature. The reign of Krishnadevaraya is celebrated as a golden age, particularly for Telugu literature. His court was famously adorned by the 'Ashtadiggajas', a group of eight great poets. The king's own literary contributions and his support for scholars in various languages fostered a vibrant intellectual environment that produced many enduring classical works.

**116.** (A) A pragmatic and tolerant approach, influenced by his personal beliefs and political necessities.
Humayun's religious policy was generally characterized by pragmatism and a degree of tolerance. His approach was shaped by his personal interest in mystical traditions and the practical need to manage a diverse empire during a period of political instability. While he identified with Islamic traditions, his policies were not marked by strict orthodoxy or systematic persecution, as he sought to maintain support from various factions for his survival.

**117.** (A) It was divided based on ethnicity (Turks, Afghans, Persians) and a distinction between foreign-born (Ashraf) and indigenous converts (Ajlaf).
Muslim society in medieval India was not a monolithic group but featured significant social and ethnic divisions. A major distinction existed between the 'Ashraf', who claimed descent from foreign Muslim groups like Turks, Persians, and Afghans, and the 'Ajlaf', who were indigenous converts from local Indian communities. These divisions often influenced an individual's social status, access to high administrative positions, and general standing within the broader political structure.

**118.** (A) Pre-Vedic and non-Aryan folk traditions that were later assimilated into mainstream Hinduism.
The Shakta tradition, which focuses on the worship of the Goddess or Devi, has deep roots in pre-Vedic and non-Aryan folk cultures. These ancient traditions centered on the life-giving and creative power of the female principle. Over many centuries, these diverse local beliefs and practices were gradually assimilated and refined into mainstream Hinduism, resulting in a sophisticated theological and ritual framework that became highly prominent throughout the medieval period.

**119.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Mughal and Vijayanagar architecture featured several distinctive elements. Pietra dura inlay work is a key feature of the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah. The double dome design was introduced in India with the main structure of Humayun's Tomb. The Charbagh garden layout is prominently seen in the garden surrounding Humayun's Tomb. In South India, massive ornate entrance towers called Gopurams are characteristic of temples like the Meenakshi Temple in Madurai.

**120.** (A) Large caravans of bullock carts
For internal trade in medieval India, large caravans of bullock carts and pack animals were

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Instead of paying cash salaries to high-ranking officials and nobles, the state assigned them the right to collect and retain the land revenue from specific territories. While the noble, known as a jagirdar, managed the revenue collection, the land itself remained under the ultimate ownership of the emperor, ensuring a centralized control over the imperial resources.

**137.** (A) The rulers of the Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur.
While the origins of several musical forms are debated, the development and popularity of 'Khayal' are often linked to the patronage provided by regional courts in the later medieval period. Specifically, the rulers of the Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur are traditionally credited with significantly encouraging this form of Hindustani classical music. Khayal eventually became a major alternative to the older Dhrupad style, characterized by its greater focus on imagination and intricate ornamentation.

**138.** (C) The practice of Sati was completely eradicated during the Sultanate period.
Social life in medieval India was governed by traditional customs and hierarchies. The Purdah system was observed by many upper-class women, and the caste system remained the foundation of Hindu social structure. Popular entertainment included activities like chess, chaupar, and animal fights. However, the practice of Sati was not eradicated during the Sultanate period; it continued to be prevalent in many regions, especially among the Rajput and other upper castes.

**139.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Shahjahan's reign is widely celebrated as the 'Golden Age of Mughal Architecture' because of his intense personal interest and massive investment in building projects. His reign marked a shift from the use of red sandstone to white marble, which allowed for more intricate decorations and a sense of luminous elegance. Masterpieces like the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort in Delhi exemplify the architectural perfection, symmetry, and grandeur achieved during his rule.

**140.** (A) Preached in the vernacular language and took disciples from all castes, including Kabir and Ravidas.
Ramananda was a transformative figure in the North Indian Bhakti movement. He made a significant impact by preaching in the local vernacular language, making spiritual ideas accessible to everyone. Most importantly, he broke traditional social barriers by accepting disciples from all castes and walks of life, including Kabir, a weaver, and Ravidas, a cobbler. This inclusive approach laid the foundation for a more egalitarian and popular devotional movement in North India.

**141.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Medieval schools of painting had distinct characteristics. The Mughal style under Jahangir focused on realistic portraiture and nature studies. The Rajasthani school prominently featured mythological themes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The Pahari school, particularly the Kangra style, is known for its lyrical and romantic depictions of Radha and Krishna. The Vijayanagar school is recognized for its vibrant murals depicting religious narratives with strong outlines and bold colors.

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**142.** (A) A revenue collector at the district (sarkar) level.
In the Mughal administrative structure, the 'Amil' or 'Amalguzar' was a crucial official responsible for the collection of land revenue at the district, or 'sarkar', level. Their duties included assessing the crops, ensuring timely collection of taxes, and encouraging peasants to bring more land under cultivation. By maintaining direct contact with the rural population and local officials, the Amil played a vital role in sustaining the empire's fiscal resources.

**143.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The development of Sikhism followed a path from spiritual foundation to organized resistance. The early Gurus established the faith's core values and social practices. The martyrdom of the fifth and ninth Gurus, in response to state persecution, led the community to emphasize self-defense and militarization. Finally, Guru Gobind Singh institutionalized these changes by founding the Khalsa and designating the Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal spiritual guide for all Sikhs.

**144.** (A) The efforts of Bhakti and Sufi saints to communicate their message to the common people.
The flourishing of literature in regional languages during the medieval period was primarily driven by the spiritual leaders of the Bhakti and Sufi movements. These saints and mystics wanted to ensure that their message of devotion and love reached the common people who did not understand formal Sanskrit or Persian. By composing hymns and poetry in local dialects, they not only democratized spiritual knowledge but also significantly enriched regional literary traditions.

**145.** (A) The absence of temples as centers of social life.
Social life in the Vijayanagar Empire was deeply integrated with its religious and cultural institutions. Temples were not just places of worship but served as the primary centers for social gatherings, educational activities, and artistic performances. The society was characterized by a well-defined caste hierarchy, and historical records show that practices such as polygamy among the elite and the performance of Sati in higher social classes were quite prevalent during this period.

**146.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
The Mughal emperors' attitudes toward music varied significantly based on their personal interests and religious views. Akbar was a great patron who supported many talented musicians, including Tansen, and integrated music into the vibrant court culture. In contrast, Aurangzeb's orthodox religious beliefs led him to view certain artistic practices with disapproval. Consequently, he banned instrumental and vocal music from his court and dismissed many state-supported musicians.

**147.** (C) A large caravan of pack animals and bullock carts.
For long-distance internal trade in the seventeenth century, merchants primarily relied on large caravans. Transporting bulky goods like cotton textiles across the plains between cities such as Surat and Agra was most effectively done using pack animals, like camels and oxen, and bullock carts. These caravans were often accompanied by armed guards for protection and followed established trade routes that were dotted with rest houses and water sources.

**148.** (A) Basavanna
The Virashaiva or Lingayat movement was a radical and influential devotional sect that emerged in the Deccan during the twelfth century. It was founded by Basavanna, who challenged traditional Hindu social structures, including the caste system and rituals. The movement focused on the intense devotion to Lord Shiva, symbolized by the 'Ishtalinga'. Basavanna's teachings, expressed through simple Kannada verses called Vachanas, promoted social equality and the dignity of labor.

**149.** (B) Raja Todar Mal
The 'Ain-i-Dahsala', a highly efficient land revenue system introduced by Akbar, was primarily developed by his talented finance minister, Raja Todar Mal. Drawing on his previous experience under Sher Shah Suri, Todar Mal implemented a system based on systematic land measurement and the assessment of average crop yields and prices over a ten-year period. This innovation provided the Mughal state with a stable income and reduced arbitrary tax demands on peasants.

**150.** (B) He was more orthodox than Akbar and Jahangir, but less so than Aurangzeb.
Shahjahan's religious policy represented a transitional phase in the Mughal Empire. While he did not completely abandon the liberal traditions of Akbar and Jahangir, he demonstrated a more pronounced Islamic orthodoxy. He favored some conservative measures, such as the destruction of newly built temples, yet his reign did not reach the level of strict puritanism and widespread reimposition of discriminatory taxes that characterized the later rule of his son, Aurangzeb.

**151.** (C) To train scholars in Islamic theology and law (fiqh) to serve as officials for the state.
The primary purpose of Madrasas in medieval India was to provide advanced education in Islamic theology, jurisprudence, and law. These institutions were essential for training a class of professional scholars and jurists who were qualified to serve as judges (Qazis), teachers, and administrative officials. By producing these experts, the state ensured that the legal and

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religious frameworks of the empire were managed by knowledgeable and reliable individuals.

**152.** (A) 1 and 2 only
The Sikh faith was established by its first leader, Guru Nanak, who provided its core spiritual and social foundation. The lineage of human Gurus continued until the tenth leader, Guru Gobind Singh, who ended the tradition by designating the holy scripture as the eternal Guru. While Guru Arjan Dev was martyred, this event occurred in 1606 during the reign of Emperor Jahangir, following a period of relative peace under Akbar.

**153.** (B) Hindu mythology, particularly the legends of Radha and Krishna.
The Pahari school of painting, which developed in the various small kingdoms of the Himalayan foothills, is deeply rooted in Hindu devotional traditions. Its themes are primarily drawn from mythological narratives and the lyrical poetry of the Bhakti movement. The legends of Radha and Krishna, reflecting the themes of divine love and devotion, are especially prominent, characterized by soft colors, delicate lines, and a profound emotional and natural beauty.

**154.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
During the medieval period, the Purdah system became a widespread social practice among upper-class women in both Hindu and Muslim communities. For Muslim nobility, it was a traditional cultural feature. Many upper-caste Hindus adopted the practice in imitation of the ruling elite, as it came to be viewed as a symbol of high social status, respectability, and a means of protecting the honor and privacy of noble households.

**155.** (A) They were worn by both men and women and signified social status, wealth, and religious belief.
In medieval Indian society, ornaments were much more than simple accessories; they were significant indicators of an individual's identity. Both men and women across various communities wore a wide array of jewelry made from gold, silver, and precious stones. These items served to reflect the wearer's wealth and social rank. Furthermore, certain ornaments often had religious or symbolic meanings, indicating specific beliefs or protection from divine forces.

**156.** (A) Spices, textiles, and precious stones
The Vijayanagar Empire was a major participant in international maritime trade. Its economic life was sustained by the export of high-demand commodities such as various spices, fine cotton and silk textiles, and precious stones. These goods were traded through the empire's numerous ports to markets across Asia and Europe. In exchange, the empire imported essential items like horses from Arabia and Persia, along with luxury goods and precious metals.

**157.** (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
Sant Ravidas was a prominent Bhakti saint whose life and teachings challenged the hierarchical caste system. Despite being a cobbler by profession, his spiritual wisdom earned him widespread respect across all social strata. This highlights that the Bhakti movement was not an exclusively upper-caste movement. Instead, it provided a significant platform for individuals from marginalized backgrounds to express their devotion and critique the social inequalities of medieval Indian society.

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**158.** (B) Jayadeva
The 'Gita Govinda' is a celebrated twelfth-century lyrical poem composed by the poet Jayadeva. It beautifully describes the relationship between Lord Krishna and the Gopis, with a focus on his deep love for Radha. This work had a profound influence on the Bhakti movement, particularly the Vaishnava traditions in Bengal and Odisha. Its emotive and romantic portrayal of divine devotion inspired numerous artistic, musical, and dance forms throughout the medieval period.

**159.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Mughal religious policies evolved significantly over different reigns. Akbar established the liberal 'Sulh-i-Kul' and abolished the Jizya tax. Jahangir generally continued these policies but executed Guru Arjan Dev for political reasons. Shahjahan shifted toward greater orthodoxy, including the demolition of some new temples. Aurangzeb fully reimposed the Jizya and adopted a puritanical Islamic policy, marking a definitive move away from the tolerance of his predecessors.

**160.** (B) They formed a differentiated group, ranging from land-owning 'khud-kashta' to landless laborers, and were often subject to high revenue demands.
Peasants in medieval India were not a uniform group but were significantly stratified. They ranged from the 'khud-kashta', who owned and resided on the land they tilled, to the 'pahi-kashta' and various landless laborers. Regardless of their status, most peasants were subject to substantial land revenue demands from the state, which often took a large portion of their harvest, making their economic lives vulnerable to fluctuations in weather and political stability.

**161.** (C) Vijayanagar
The addition of the 'Kalyana Mandapa', or marriage hall, was a distinctive architectural innovation of the Vijayanagar Empire in South India. These halls were used for the ritual marriage of the temple's presiding deity. They were characterized by exceptionally elaborate stone carvings on numerous pillars, often featuring mythological figures and ornate floral motifs. This feature added to the grandeur and ceremonial importance of the massive temple complexes built during this period.

**162.** (A) Guru Ram Das
Guru Ram Das, the fourth Sikh Guru, is credited with founding the holy city of Amritsar. He established the settlement, initially known as Ramdaspur, and began the excavation of the sacred pool or 'sarovar'. He also initiated the plans for the construction of the Harmandir Sahib, which became the central shrine of Sikhism. This development transformed the region into a major spiritual and commercial hub for the growing Sikh community.

**163.** (A) The Ulema emphasized strict adherence to external religious laws (Sharia), while Sufis emphasized inner mystical experience and love for God.
Conflict between Sufi mystics and the orthodox Islamic clergy, or Ulema, often arose from their different spiritual approaches. The Ulema focused on the formal and outward observance of the Sharia, ensuring strict adherence to traditional laws and rituals. In contrast, Sufis prioritized the internal spiritual journey and the cultivation of an intense personal love for the Divine. This emphasis on mystical experience over formal legalism was sometimes viewed with suspicion by orthodox authorities.

**164.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Medieval Indian industry was dominated by sophisticated textile production, with cotton and silk fabrics being major exports. Shipbuilding also flourished, particularly in coastal regions where artisans constructed durable vessels for oceanic trade. While India had a long and advanced tradition of iron and steel production, including the famous 'wootz' steel, the industry was decentralized and focused on creating weapons, agricultural tools, and architectural components rather than large-scale industrial output.

**165.** (C) The execution of the Sikh Guru Arjan Dev.
While Emperor Jahangir generally maintained the liberal and tolerant religious policies of his father, Akbar, his reign was not without instances of orthodoxy and political conflict. A primary example of this was the execution of Guru Arjan Dev in 1606. Although the Emperor presented this action as a response to the Guru's alleged political support for a rebellious prince, it marked a significant moment of state-enforced religious and political persecution.

**166.** (B) Khalisa land
In the Mughal land revenue system, 'Khalisa' land referred to territories that were directly administered by the central imperial authority. Unlike 'Jagir' land, where revenue was assigned to nobles, the income from Khalisa lands was collected by state officials and sent directly to the imperial treasury. These funds were essential for covering the emperor's personal expenses and maintaining the central administration and the large standing army.

**167.** (A) Insistence on strict adherence to the Sharia and opposition to innovations like 'Sama'.
The Naqshbandi Sufi order, which gained significant influence in India during the later Mughal period, was characterized by its orthodox approach. Unlike more liberal orders, the Naqshbandis insisted on the strict adherence to the Sharia and the teachings of the Quran. They were particularly known for their opposition to spiritual innovations such as 'Sama' (devotional music and dance), emphasizing silent meditation

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and the restoration of traditional Islamic practices within the state.

**168.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
While Persian was the pre-eminent language of administration and high culture in medieval India, Sanskrit literature did not cease to exist. Hindu rulers, especially in South India and Rajasthan, continued to patronize Sanskrit scholars and poets. This period saw the production of numerous significant works in Sanskrit, including philosophical treatises, legal codes, and epic poems, demonstrating that the ancient classical language remained a vital part of India's intellectual and religious life.

**169.** (C) Vallabhacharya - Bengal
Many Bhakti saints are famously associated with specific regions. Tukaram was a major figure in Maharashtra. Guru Nanak's spiritual influence was centered in Punjab. Ramanujacharya was a pivotal philosopher from Tamil Nadu. However, Vallabhacharya, the founder of the Pushtimarg tradition, was primarily active in North and West India, specifically in the regions of Vrindavan and Gujarat, rather than being a prominent figure in the Bengal region.

**170.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The creation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 was a landmark event that fundamentally transformed the Sikh community. By establishing this disciplined military order, the Guru created a unified group of 'saint-soldiers'. Members were committed to spiritual devotion and the physical defense of their faith. This new identity empowered the community to resist social injustice, religious persecution, and the political tyranny of the contemporary Mughal state.

**171.** (A) Political pragmatism and the need to consolidate a new empire.
Babur's religious policy in India was largely driven by political pragmatism rather than religious zeal. As he sought to establish a foothold in a diverse and unfamiliar land, he understood the importance of maintaining stability and securing the cooperation of local elites. While he occasionally used religious rhetoric to unify his troops, his primary focus remained the consolidation of his newly conquered territories and the survival of his nascent empire.

**172.** (A) The practice of a widow immolating herself on her husband's funeral pyre.
Sati was a tragic and controversial social practice in medieval Hindu society, primarily among the warrior and upper castes. It involved a widow immolating herself on the funeral pyre of her deceased husband. While it was often portrayed as an act of ultimate devotion or sacrifice to protect the family's honor, it was a profound social evil that multiple rulers and reformers sought to discourage or regulate throughout the period.

**173.** (A) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
Firoz Shah Tughlaq, a prominent ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, was known for his significant contributions to education and infrastructure. He established the Madrasa-i-Firuz Shahi in Delhi as a major center of higher learning. This institution attracted scholars and students from various parts of the Islamic world and provided advanced instruction in subjects such as theology, law, and various sciences, reflecting the Sultan's personal commitment to intellectual and religious development.

**174.** (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Medieval India produced various iconic literary works. Abul Fazl authored the Akbarnama, the official history of Akbar's reign. Tulsidas wrote the Ramcharitmanas, a beloved retelling of the Ramayana. The Vijayanagar ruler Krishnadevaraya composed the Amuktamalyada in Telugu. Sant Gyaneshwara wrote the Gyaneshwari, an influential commentary on the Bhagavad Gita in Marathi. Together, these works reflect the rich linguistic and intellectual diversity of the period across different regions and traditions.

**175.** (A) Pahari School
The Kangra and Guler styles are celebrated as the most refined phases of the Pahari school of painting. Flourishing in the small hill states of the Himalayas during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, these styles are characterized by their lyrical grace, soft color palettes, and delicate details. They primarily depicted romantic and devotional themes from

NODIA

Hindu literature, such as the legends of Radha and Krishna, reflecting a profound sense of natural and emotional beauty.

**176.** (A) The period saw the growth of existing cities and the foundation of new ones, driven by administrative needs and commercial activity.
Urbanization expanded significantly during the medieval period due to the growth of political and commercial centers. Existing cities grew as they became hubs for the imperial administration and the nobility. Additionally, rulers founded new planned cities like Fatehpur Sikri and Shahjahanabad. These urban centers thrived as vibrant hubs of trade, handicraft production, and cultural exchange, supported by the demand for luxury goods and the concentration of the empire's political power.

**177.** (A) 1 and 2 only
The Vijayanagar Empire featured a dynamic religious landscape where rulers patronized multiple Hindu sects, including Vaishnavism and Shaivism. Temples were central to society, functioning as major economic institutions and centers for education and social gatherings. While Hinduism was the dominant faith, the empire was generally known for its religious tolerance. Historical evidence shows that other religions, including Islam and Christianity, were practiced within the empire, often with the rulers' protection or support.

**178.** (A) The division of the actual crop at the threshing floor between the state and the cultivator.
Batai was a traditional and straightforward method of land revenue assessment used in various parts of medieval India. Under this system, the state and the peasant divided the actual harvested crop at the threshing floor according to a pre-arranged proportion. This method was often preferred by cultivators as it naturally adjusted the tax demand based on the season's actual yield, sharing the risk of poor harvests between the state and the farmer.

**179.** (A) Tulsidas
Tulsidas was a contemporary of the Mughal emperors Akbar and Jahangir and a vital figure in the Bhakti movement. His most influential work, the 'Ramcharitmanas', was written in the Awadhi dialect of Hindi. By reteling the Ramayana in the language of the common people, he made the story of Lord Rama immensely popular and spiritually accessible across North India, profoundly shaping the region's religious and cultural identity for centuries to come.

**180.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
Relations between the Mughal Empire and the Sikh community were not peaceful throughout the entire period. While early relations were relatively stable, the situation worsened due to increasing political and religious tensions. The martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev under Jahangir and later Guru Tegh Bahadur under Aurangzeb were pivotal events that created deep-seated hostility. These conflicts eventually led to sustained armed struggle as the Sikh community organized itself to resist Mughal authority and persecution.

**181.** (A) To allow ventilation and subdued light into the interior while maintaining privacy.
Jalis, or perforated stone screens, are an iconic feature of Mughal architecture that served both practical and aesthetic roles. Functionally, they allowed for natural ventilation and a controlled, subdued light to enter the interior spaces of tombs and palaces. Simultaneously, they provided privacy for the occupants, particularly women, while their intricate geometric and floral patterns added a delicate, lace-like beauty to the robust stone structures.

**182.** (A) Ramananda
Ramananda is recognized as a key pioneer who brought the Bhakti movement from South India to the North. He made spiritual devotion more accessible by preaching in the local vernacular language rather than in Sanskrit. By accepting disciples from all social backgrounds, including Kabir and Ravidas, he bridged the gap between traditional orthodox practices and the later, more radical devotional movements that challenged the rigid caste hierarchy and religious formalities of North India.

**183.** (A) Automobile manufacturing
In medieval India, the economy was supported by several thriving handicraft industries that produced high-quality goods for both local consumption and global trade. The most prominent included the textile industry,

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metalwork, jewelry making, and stone carving. These sectors employed millions of skilled artisans and used traditional techniques passed down through generations. Automobile manufacturing, however, is a modern industrial activity that did not exist during the medieval period.

**184.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Aurangzeb's religious policies, characterized by Islamic orthodoxy, are often cited as a major factor in the Mughal Empire's decline. His reimposition of the Jizya tax and the destruction of several Hindu temples alienated significant portions of his subjects, particularly the Rajput and Maratha elites who had previously supported the Mughal state. This led to widespread rebellions and prolonged military conflicts that drained the imperial treasury and weakened the centralized authority of the empire.

**185.** (A) Simple and made of locally available cotton.
For the majority of the population in medieval India, clothing was simple and practical. It was almost entirely made of locally available cotton fabrics, which were well-suited for the Indian climate. While the nobility used expensive silks, brocades, and fine muslins with elaborate designs, the common people wore basic garments like the dhoti, lungi, or simple tunics, reflecting their modest economic circumstances and the importance of indigenous textile production.

**186.** (A) The practice of 'Sati' and child marriage were prevalent, particularly in certain communities and regions.
The status of women in medieval Hindu society was influenced by various traditional customs. Practices like Sati and child marriage were prevalent in several regions and within specific social groups, particularly among the upper and warrior castes. While some religious and social traditions provided women with specific rights, these prevailing customs often limited their freedoms and social opportunities, reflecting the patriarchal structure of contemporary society.

**187.** (A) Wool, referring to the coarse woolen garments worn by early mystics.
The term 'Sufi' is widely believed to be derived from 'suf', the Arabic word for wool. This refers to the coarse, simple woolen garments worn by early Islamic mystics as a sign of their detachment from worldly luxuries and their commitment to a life of spiritual austerity and poverty. Over time, 'Sufism' became the term for the mystical branch of Islam, focusing on the inner search for God through love and devotion.

**188.** (A) Dravidian style
The architectural style developed by the Vijayanagar Empire is considered a vibrant and highly developed continuation of the Dravidian tradition of South India. While it introduced its own unique innovations, such as grand pillared halls and elaborate gopurams, it remained rooted in the structural and aesthetic principles of previous dynasties like the Cholas and Pandyas. This style is most famously represented in the massive temple complexes at their capital, Hampi.

**189.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Bhakti saints expressed their devotion to various deities, often focusing on Lord Rama or Krishna. Meerabai was famous for her intense love for Krishna. Tulsidas dedicated his life and work to Lord Rama. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu popularized the emotional worship of Krishna in Bengal. Tukaram, a Marathi saint, focused his devotion on Lord Vithoba, a form of Krishna worshipped at Pandharpur. Together, these saints reflect the diversity within the Saguna Bhakti tradition.

**190.** (A) It caused musicians to seek patronage in the courts of regional nobles and governors, leading to the decentralization and development of regional musical styles.
Aurangzeb's decision to ban music at the imperial court had a significant unintended consequence for Indian culture. Unable to find support at the center, many talented musicians traveled to regional courts and the estates of local governors. This movement led to the decentralization of musical talent and fostered the development of various provincial styles of classical music. Consequently, while court music declined in Delhi, it flourished and diversified in other parts of the subcontinent.

**191.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The Mughal state employed several methods for assessing and collecting land revenue to ensure

NODIA

incorporating various architectural styles that reflected the diverse cultures within his empire. By including mosques, palaces, and halls for inter-faith dialogue, and employing artisans from different regions, he created a monumental symbol of his vision for a unified and inclusive Mughal state.

**208.** (A) Saguna bhakti involves devotion to God with attributes, while Nirguna is devotion to a formless God.
The Bhakti movement was broadly divided into 'Saguna' and 'Nirguna' traditions based on their conception of the Divine. Saguna Bhakti emphasizes devotion to God in a physical form with specific attributes and personality, such as Rama or Krishna. In contrast, Nirguna Bhakti focuses on the worship of a formless, attribute-less, and omnipresent divine reality. While their spiritual goals were similar, their methods of worship and devotional literature differed significantly.

**209.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
Contrary to the idea that he lacked interest, Emperor Jahangir was a passionate and highly discerning patron of painting. His reign is widely celebrated as the golden age of Mughal painting. Under his personal influence, the art form moved away from collective manuscript work toward highly detailed individual portraits and meticulous, realistic studies of nature. This period saw a peak in technical skill and a focus on capturing the personality and natural details of subjects.

**210.** (A) It spurred the growth and development of literature in regional vernacular languages.
The most significant and lasting impact of the Bhakti movement on Indian literature was the immense boost it gave to regional vernacular languages. Bhakti saints and poets wanted to communicate their message of devotion to the common masses. Consequently, they composed their hymns, poems, and teachings in local dialects such as Marathi, Bengali, Awadhi, and Braj Bhasha. This democratization of literature led to a rich flourishing of regional traditions and made spiritual knowledge accessible to all.

**211.** (A) Tulsidas - Saguna Bhakti
Tulsidas was a prominent saint whose life and work were centered on 'Saguna' Bhakti, or devotion to God with specific attributes and form. His most famous work, the 'Ramcharitmanas', focuses on the deep personal devotion to Lord Rama as a physical incarnation of the Divine. In contrast, Kabir and Guru Nanak were key figures of the 'Nirguna' tradition, which emphasizes the worship of a formless and attribute-less divine principle without physical representations.

**212.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The city of Vijayanagara was renowned for its immense size and prosperity, a fact supported by contemporary travelers' accounts. This wealth was primarily driven by the empire's thriving agricultural base, supported by advanced irrigation systems like tanks and dams. Furthermore, its control over major ports facilitated a lucrative foreign trade in luxury goods. The deliberate patronage of the rulers helped channel this wealth into building grand monuments, making it a major global center.

**213.** (A) Mughals
The 'charbagh' style, a fundamental element of Islamic garden design, was introduced to India by the Mughals, starting with Babur. This layout divides a garden into four equal quadrants using water channels or pathways. Based on the concept of a paradise garden, this symmetrical design became a characteristic feature of Mughal architecture, seen in the gardens surrounding monumental tombs like those of Humayun and Shah Jahan's Taj Mahal.

**214.** (A) Listening to devotional music and poetry to achieve spiritual ecstasy.
'Sama' is a central spiritual practice within many Sufi orders. It involves the ritualized act of listening to devotional music and the recitation of mystical poetry. The goal of Sama is to evoke deep emotional and spiritual feelings, leading to a state of 'wajd', or divine ecstasy. This practice was intended to help the Sufi seeker achieve a more direct and personal connection with God through the power of sound and devotion.

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implementation of Jizya varied significantly under different Indian rulers. For example, Akbar abolished the tax during his reign as a part of his liberal policy, while his great-grandson, Aurangzeb, later reimposed it.

**200.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Bhakti movement was a transformative religious and social phenomenon that challenged the rigid caste system and the dominance of ritualism. Bhakti saints such as Kabir, Nanak, and Ravidas emerged from diverse social backgrounds, including marginalized castes. By preaching the message of absolute devotion and the spiritual equality of all human beings, they created a more inclusive religious environment that critiqued the birth-based inequalities of contemporary Indian society.

**201.** (C) Legally, they had rights to property and divorce, though often restricted by patriarchal social customs.
The condition of women in medieval Muslim society was governed by Islamic law, which granted them specific rights that were often more progressive than those in contemporary systems. These included the right to own property, inherit from their parents, and seek divorce. However, in practice, these legal rights were frequently limited or overshadowed by the prevailing patriarchal social customs and traditional attitudes that governed the lives of most women.

**202.** (A) Unique synthesis of Persian, Turkish, and South Indian (Dravidian) elements.
The architecture of the Deccan Sultanates, such as Bijapur and Golconda, is notable for its distinctive and eclectic style. It represented a unique fusion of various artistic traditions, including Persian and Turkish influences from the Islamic world and indigenous South Indian, or Dravidian, elements. This synthesis produced iconic structures with massive domes, slender minarets, and intricate decorative features, reflecting the diverse cultural influences present in the Deccan region during the period.

**203.** (B) The belief in one formless God and the equality of all human beings.
Guru Nanak's core teachings focused on a radical message of spiritual and social reform. He promoted the belief in 'Ek Onkar', the one formless and eternal God, and strongly criticized idol worship and ritualism. Central to his philosophy was the fundamental equality of all humankind, regardless of their caste or creed. He advocated for a life of honest labor, meditation on the divine name, and selfless service to the community.

**204.** (B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Economic life in medieval India utilized several specialized terms. Sarais were essential rest houses for travelers and merchants along trade routes. The Dadan system involved an advance payment method used by merchants to secure goods from artisans. Karkhanas were the royal workshops that produced luxury goods. Banjaras were specialized nomadic communities that managed the bulk transport and trade of essential commodities like grain and salt across the subcontinent.

**205.** (A) Pahari School
The Basohli and Mankot styles represent the early, vibrant phases of the Pahari school of painting. Developing in the late seventeenth century, these styles are known for their bold colors, strong lines, and intense emotional expression. They often depicted mythological and romantic themes, particularly the love of Radha and Krishna. These early hill styles laid the foundation for the more delicate and naturalistic schools of painting that flourished later in the Himalayan region.

**206.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Cultural life in the Vijayanagar Empire was exceptionally rich and multifaceted. Rulers were generous patrons of both Sanskrit and regional languages like Telugu and Kannada, leading to a flourishing of literature. Their architectural style was a unique blend that incorporated traditional Dravidian features with Islamic structural elements. Detailed accounts from foreign travelers like Abdur Razzak provide valuable historical insights into the grandeur of the city, its diverse population, and its vibrant culture.

**207.** (A) Akbar's construction of Fatehpur Sikri.
The construction of Fatehpur Sikri by Akbar is the clearest example of a planned capital city reflecting imperial power and religious tolerance. Akbar built this grand city from scratch,

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**223.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
Aurangzeb's religious policy marked a definitive move away from the liberal traditions established by his predecessor, Akbar. Instead of the principle of universal peace (Sulh-i-Kul), Aurangzeb adopted a more orthodox and puritanical Islamic approach. This included the reimposition of the Jizya tax on non-Muslim subjects, the discontinuation of many traditional court ceremonies he considered un-Islamic, and the destruction of certain Hindu temples that he viewed as centers of political defiance.

**224.** (A) The worship of Lord Vishnu, especially his incarnations Rama and Krishna.
Vaishnavism is one of the major branches of the Bhakti movement, centering on the intense devotion to Lord Vishnu. Its followers emphasize the belief that Vishnu periodically incarnates on earth to protect righteousness, with Rama and Krishna being his most revered forms. This tradition flourished across medieval India through the teachings of numerous saints and the production of a vast body of devotional literature, poetry, and music dedicated to these deities.

**225.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Chishti Sufis gained immense popularity in India because of their simple lifestyle and their message of universal compassion. Saints like Moinuddin Chishti and Nizamuddin Auliya lived among the people and used local languages to teach spiritual truths. Most importantly, their dargahs were open to everyone, regardless of their social standing or religious beliefs. This inclusive and compassionate approach allowed them to connect deeply with the common masses, transcending traditional social and religious barriers.

**226.** (A) The Chishtis generally maintained distance from the state and lived in poverty, while the Suhrawardis accepted state grants and positions.
The Chishti and Suhrawardi Sufi orders represented two distinct philosophies regarding worldly power. The Chishtis generally followed a policy of spiritual isolation, preferring to live in poverty and avoiding any official association with the ruling state. In contrast, the Suhrawardi order believed that spiritual leaders could effectively use state patronage and hold administrative positions to influence the government and better provide for the religious and social needs of the Muslim community in India.

**227.** (A) The martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev during Jahangir's reign.
The relationship between the Mughal Empire and the Sikh community shifted from relative coexistence to open conflict following the execution of Guru Arjan Dev in 1606. Emperor Jahangir accused the fifth Guru of political treason for allegedly supporting a rebellious prince. This martyrdom profoundly impacted the Sikh community, leading them to gradually emphasize self-defense and militarization. It set the stage for subsequent periods of intense hostility and armed resistance against Mughal authority in North India.

**228.** (A) The Vijayanagar Empire
The architectural development in South India during the medieval period reached its zenith under the Vijayanagar Empire. This dynasty continued and significantly elaborated upon the earlier Dravidian styles. They were famous for building massive temple complexes characterized by exceptionally grand, pillared halls and ornate gopurams decorated with intricate stone sculptures. The ruins of their capital, Hampi, remain a testament to the empire's extraordinary architectural achievements and its deep-seated patronage of religious and cultural life.

**229.** (A) Kabir
Kabir was a uniquely influential saint whose teachings transcended traditional religious boundaries. His devotional couplets and verses challenged religious orthodoxy and emphasized the internal spiritual experience. Because of his universal message of equality and the unity of God, his compositions were highly valued by different communities. Consequently, his works were incorporated into both the 'Guru Granth Sahib' of the Sikhs and the primary scriptures of the Kabirpanthis, reflecting his broad and enduring spiritual legacy.

**230.** (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Medieval Indian philosophers introduced several major schools of thought within the Vedantic tradition. Shankaracharya established the Advaita school, emphasizing pure non-

NODIA

**215.** (A) Iltutmish
Iltutmish, the third Sultan of Delhi, is credited with several significant administrative and monetary reforms. He introduced two basic coins that became the standard for the Sultanate's currency system: the silver 'tanka' and the copper 'jital'. By standardizing the weight and purity of these coins, Iltutmish established a reliable monetary framework that facilitated trade, tax collection, and economic integration across his newly consolidated territories in North India.

**216.** (A) Widespread encouragement of widow remarriage across all castes.
The condition of Hindu women in medieval India was largely governed by patriarchal social structures and traditional customs. While their experiences varied, practices such as child marriage and Sati were prevalent in several regions and social groups. Property rights remained quite limited for most women. Importantly, there was no widespread encouragement of widow remarriage; in fact, it was often socially discouraged or forbidden, particularly among the upper castes and conservative communities.

**217.** (A) A class of nobles who held a rank (mansab) and were obliged to supply a certain number of cavalrymen.
In the Mughal administrative and military system, 'mansabdars' were a diverse class of officials and nobles who formed the backbone of the empire. Each mansabdar held a specific rank, or 'mansab', which determined their status, salary, and military obligations. They were required to maintain a fixed number of armed cavalrymen for the emperor's service. This system integrated the military elite into the state bureaucracy, ensuring a centralized control over the imperial forces.

**218.** (A) The Guru Granth Sahib and Janamsakhis
The primary sources for the life and teachings of the Sikh Gurus are the 'Guru Granth Sahib' and the 'Janamsakhis'. The Guru Granth Sahib is the holy scripture containing the Gurus' actual hymns and spiritual guidance. The Janamsakhis are traditional biographical accounts that narrate the life stories, travels, and miracles of Guru Nanak. Together, these texts provide the spiritual and historical foundation for the Sikh faith and its subsequent development.

**219.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Akbar's religious policy was exceptionally liberal and aimed at fostering national unity. He abolished discriminatory taxes like the Jizya and the pilgrimage tax. He established the Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri to encourage theological discussions among scholars of different faiths. Furthermore, he promulgated 'Din-i-Ilahi', a syncretic ethical code that sought to combine truths from various religions. These measures reflected his deep-seated belief in religious tolerance and mutual respect among his subjects.

**220.** (A) Massive central dome which is one of the largest in the world.
The Gol Gumbaz in Bijapur is a masterpiece of Deccani architecture and the mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah. Its most striking feature is its massive central dome, which remains one of the largest single-span domes in the world. The structure is also famous for its 'whispering gallery', where even the slightest sound is amplified and repeated across the vast interior, reflecting the sophisticated architectural and acoustic skills of the period.

**221.** (A) Hundi
For a merchant in the seventeenth century, the most reliable and efficient way to transfer funds between distant commercial centers like Surat and Delhi was through a 'Hundi'. This was a sophisticated bill of exchange or credit note issued by indigenous bankers. By using a Hundi, a trader could deposit money in one city and receive a corresponding payment in another, effectively bypassing the significant risks and costs associated with transporting large amounts of physical cash.

**222.** (A) The Bhakti movement
The Alvars and Nayanars were instrumental in launching the early phase of the Bhakti movement in South India between the seventh and ninth centuries. The Alvars were devoted to Lord Vishnu, while the Nayanars focused their intense devotion on Lord Shiva. By composing soulful hymns in the Tamil language, these saints made spiritual devotion accessible to all castes, laying the foundation for the later spread of the Bhakti movement throughout the entire Indian subcontinent.

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**238.** (A) The concentration of administration, nobility, and military camps, which created demand for goods and services.
Urbanization expanded significantly during the Sultanate and Mughal periods due to the highly centralized nature of their administration. The establishment of grand courts, a large nobility, and permanent military camps in specific locations created an immense demand for diverse luxury goods, food supplies, and various services. This encouraged thousands of artisans, merchants, and service providers to settle in these centers, leading to the rapid growth of existing towns and the foundation of many new cities.

**239.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Aurangzeb's religious policy represented a significant departure from the liberal 'Sulh-i-Kul' (universal peace) policy pioneered by his great-grandfather, Akbar. Guided by a more orthodox and puritanical interpretation of Islam, Aurangzeb reimposed the Jizya tax on non-Muslims and took measures to enforce Islamic law more strictly. These policies alienated many of his subjects, particularly the Hindu Rajput and Maratha elites, which led to widespread rebellions and contributed to the eventual weakening of the Mughal Empire.

**240.** (A) South India
The 'Gopuram' is an iconic architectural feature characteristic of South Indian temple design. These are monumental and highly ornate entrance towers that lead into the walled enclosures of temple complexes. Reaching their highest level of grandeur during the medieval period under the Chola, Pandya, and Vijayanagar empires, Gopurams were decorated with hundreds of intricate stone sculptures of deities and mythological figures, serving as impressive symbols of religious devotion and imperial wealth.

**241.** (A) It was primarily a trading and merchant guild.
The Khalsa was not a trading guild; rather, it was a disciplined and martial community established by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. Its purpose was to unify the Sikhs and provide them with a distinct identity to resist political tyranny and religious persecution. Members of the Khalsa were called 'saint-soldiers' and were required to strictly follow a code of conduct, which included adopting the five mandatory physical symbols known as the 'Five Ks'.

**242.** (A) Shankaracharya
Shankaracharya was a pivotal eighth-century philosopher who is credited with consolidating the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. This school of thought emphasizes pure non-dualism, teaching that the individual soul and the ultimate reality are one. Through his extensive commentaries on sacred texts and his intellectual debates, Shankaracharya defended traditional Hindu thought and provided a powerful philosophical foundation that profoundly influenced subsequent religious and intellectual developments in India for many centuries.

NODIA

**243.** (A) Bengal
The textile industry was a cornerstone of the medieval Indian economy, with various regions specializing in different fabrics. Bengal was especially renowned for its production of high-quality cotton muslins, which were famous for their extraordinary fineness and delicate texture. These muslins were highly prized in both regional markets and international trade, being exported to Europe, the Middle East, and other parts of Asia, earning Bengal a reputation for exceptional textile craftsmanship.

**244.** (A) Syncretic and influenced by his personal mystical beliefs.
Emperor Humayun's religious attitude was generally characterized by its syncretic and mystical nature. He was deeply interested in various intellectual and spiritual traditions, including Sufism and astrology. His personal beliefs were influenced by a blend of Islamic mysticism and a philosophical curiosity about other faiths. This relatively open and tolerant approach reflected the broader cultural synthesis occurring in the early Mughal period, before the later shifts toward greater religious orthodoxy in the empire.

**245.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Medieval Indian society utilized several specific terms to describe agricultural and fiscal systems. 'Khud-kashta' were resident peasants who tilled their own land, while 'Pahi-kashta' were non-

dualism. Madhvacharya propounded Dvaita, which focused on the distinct dualism between God and the individual soul. Ramanujacharya introduced Vishishtadvaita, or qualified non-dualism. Vallabhacharya founded the school of Shuddhadvaita, or pure non-dualism, which focused on salvation through the grace of God. Together, these schools provided a sophisticated intellectual framework for Hindu spiritual diversity.

**231.** (A) Religious and administrative training.
The education system during the Mughal period, centered on 'Maktabs' and 'Madrasas', was primarily designed to serve the needs of the state and the religious community. 'Maktabs' provided basic literacy and religious instruction at the primary level. 'Madrasas' were institutions of higher learning that focused on advanced theology, Islamic law, and administrative skills. By training scholars, jurists, and clerks, these institutions ensured a steady supply of qualified individuals to manage the empire's legal and bureaucratic systems.

**232.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Sufism emerged as the mystical branch of Islam, emphasizing the inner search for God through love and devotion. Sufi practitioners were organized into several distinct orders, or 'Silsilas', each with its own spiritual lineage and practices. In India, the Chishti order became particularly influential due to its commitment to simplicity, its rejection of state patronage, and its focus on living in relative poverty while serving the spiritual needs of the common people.

**233.** (A) Irrigation for agriculture
The 'Persian wheel' was a vital technological innovation that significantly boosted agricultural productivity in medieval India. This device, consisting of a wheel with buckets, allowed for the efficient lifting of water from deep wells to irrigate fields. By providing a more reliable water supply, especially in semi-arid regions, it enabled farmers to cultivate more land and produce multiple crops each year. This advancement was crucial for sustaining the growing population and the empire's agrarian economy.

**234.** (A) Jahangir
The reign of Emperor Jahangir is widely celebrated as the golden age of Mughal painting. As a passionate connoisseur, he encouraged his artists to move away from collective manuscript illustrations toward highly detailed individual paintings. This period saw a peak in technical refinement, characterized by highly realistic portraiture and meticulous, scientific-style studies of the natural world, including birds, animals, and flowers. His personal patronage pushed Mughal art to its highest level of naturalism and sophistication.

**235.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
Social life in the Vijayanagar Empire was far from egalitarian; instead, it was characterized by a well-defined and rigid social hierarchy. Detailed accounts from contemporary foreign travelers like Nicolo de Conti and Abdur Razzak confirm the existence of a pervasive caste system that governed almost every aspect of social interaction. They also recorded the widespread practice of Sati, especially among the royal and upper classes, reflecting the deeply traditional and hierarchical nature of society.

**236.** (A) Abul Fazl
The 'Ain-i-Akbari' is an exceptionally detailed and authoritative account of the administration and the diverse empire of Akbar. It was authored by Abul Fazl, Akbar's close friend and court historian. As part of the larger 'Akbarnama', this work provides a wealth of statistical data, administrative rules, and cultural information about sixteenth-century India. It reflects the Mughal state's sophisticated level of record-keeping and Abul Fazl's role as the intellectual chronicler of Akbar's grand imperial vision.

**237.** (A) Tukaram
Sant Tukaram was a highly influential Marathi Bhakti saint who lived during the seventeenth century and was a contemporary of the Maratha ruler Shivaji. He is famous for his 'Abhangas', a form of devotional poetry written in the vernacular Marathi language. Tukaram's verses emphasized moral integrity, pure devotion to Lord Vithoba, and a critique of social injustices. His simple yet profound message resonated deeply with the common people and significantly influenced the cultural and spiritual life of Maharashtra.

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a steady income. The Zabti or Dahsala system was a sophisticated method based on land measurement and average yields over ten years. The Batai system involved a direct sharing of the actual harvested crop. Additionally, the Nasaq system provided a more general group assessment for an entire village or region when detailed individual assessments were not practical.

**192.** (B) Guru Arjan Dev
The Adi Granth was compiled and edited into its primary form by Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, in 1604. He carefully selected and arranged the hymns of the first four Gurus alongside his own compositions. He also included the works of various contemporary Hindu and Muslim saints. This compilation served to preserve the authentic teachings of the Gurus and provided the growing Sikh community with a central, authoritative spiritual text.

**193.** (A) Pushtimarg
Vallabhacharya founded the 'Pushtimarg', which translates to the 'Path of Grace'. This school of Vaishnavism focuses on the intense, selfless devotion to Lord Krishna. Its central tenet is that spiritual liberation and the highest state of bliss are achieved through the absolute grace of God, or 'Pushti', rather than through individual efforts or rituals alone. This philosophy became highly influential in North and West India, particularly within the devotional traditions centered on Krishna.

**194.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The Mughal school of painting was not a purely indigenous art form but a sophisticated synthesis of different traditions. It emerged during the mid-sixteenth century as a blend of Persian miniature painting and the vibrant, indigenous Indian styles. This fusion, encouraged by emperors like Akbar and Jahangir, combined the delicate lines and calligraphic focus of Persian art with the naturalism, vibrant colors, and emotional expressiveness of Indian artistic traditions.

**195.** (A) Telugu
While Sanskrit remained an important language for scholarly and religious works, Telugu emerged as the primary language for literature in the Vijayanagar Empire. Its development received immense support from the rulers, especially Krishnadevaraya, who was himself an accomplished Telugu author. His reign is often called the 'Prabandha Period' or the golden age of Telugu literature, as his court patronized numerous poets whose works transformed Telugu into a sophisticated literary medium.

**196.** (A) Akbar
Akbar's successful political strategy involved maintaining a careful balance between the various ethnic and religious groups within his nobility. He specifically worked to win over the powerful Rajput chieftains by forming matrimonial alliances and granting them high military ranks, or mansabs. By integrating these local leaders into the imperial administration, Akbar transformed former enemies into loyal allies, which significantly contributed to the stability and expansion of the Mughal Empire.

**197.** (A) Television soap operas
Popular entertainment in medieval India focused on physical skills, traditional games, and animal spectacles. People frequently enjoyed wrestling matches, animal fights involving elephants or camels, and the elite game of polo, known as 'Chaugan'. Traditional board games and various forms of storytelling and theatrical performances were also common across different social classes. Modern forms of entertainment like television and electronic media did not exist and are part of contemporary cultural life.

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**198.** (A) Ajmer
The dargah, or shrine, of the revered Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti is located in Ajmer, Rajasthan. He settled there in the late twelfth century and founded the Chishti silsila in India. His message of universal love and spiritual equality made the site a major center of pilgrimage for people of all faiths. Over centuries, various rulers, including the Mughals, added to the shrine's grand architectural structure, reflecting its enduring spiritual importance.

**199.** (B) A poll-tax levied on non-Muslim subjects in a state governed by Islamic law.
Jizya was a specific poll tax collected from non-Muslim subjects, known as 'dhimmis', in medieval Islamic states. In theory, this tax was levied in exchange for the state's protection and for their exemption from military service. The

resident cultivators. In the tax system, 'Jizya' was a poll tax levied on non-Muslim subjects, whereas 'Zakat' was a religious tax obligatory for affluent Muslims, used for charitable purposes. Together, these terms reflect the complex social and economic structures that governed life in the medieval period.

**246.** (A) Meerabai
Meerabai was a celebrated female saint and a major figure in the Bhakti movement. As a Rajput princess from Rajasthan, she renounced her royal life to dedicate herself entirely to the devotion of Lord Krishna, whom she regarded as her divine husband. Her passionate and emotive devotional songs, known as Bhajans, were composed in the vernacular dialects of Rajasthani and Braj Bhasha. Her message of absolute love and surrender made her one of India's most beloved and enduring spiritual icons.

**247.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Cultural life under the Mughals was marked by a sophisticated synthesis of different traditions. Persian was adopted as the official language of the court and administration, serving as a unifying medium for the elite. This period also witnessed the emergence of a unique Indo-Persian architectural style that blended Persian forms with indigenous Indian elements. Importantly, while Persian was dominant at court, regional languages and literature were not suppressed; instead, they flourished and were often patronized by local rulers and saints.

**248.** (A) Delegating military and administrative authority over territories (amaram) in exchange for military service.
The Nayankara system was a fundamental feature of the Vijayanagar Empire's administrative and military structure. Under this system, the central government assigned specific territories, known as 'amaram', to military commanders called Nayakas. In exchange for this grant, the Nayakas were responsible for maintaining a fixed number of troops for the king's use and for managing the local administration and revenue collection within their assigned lands. This system allowed the empire to maintain a large military force across its vast territories.

**249.** (A) Love, service to humanity, and assimilation with local culture.
The Chishti Sufi order gained immense popularity across India due to its emphasis on universal love and selfless service to humanity. Unlike some other orders, the Chishtis actively sought to integrate with the local culture, using vernacular languages for their teachings and incorporating local musical traditions into their spiritual practices. This approach, combined with their simple and pious lifestyle, allowed them to connect deeply with the common people and made their shrines centers of spiritual attraction for all communities.

**250.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The condition and status of women in medieval India were far from uniform and were significantly influenced by social class, caste, and region. While women across all social strata faced certain restrictions, aristocratic and royal women often received high levels of education and held positions of influence within the court or household. However, they were also more likely to be subject to strict practices like Purdah and seclusion, whereas common women often participated more directly in public and economic activities.

**251.** (D) A fixed revenue demand based on a ten-year average of produce and prices.
The 'Zabti' or 'Dahsala' system was a major achievement of Akbar's revenue administration. It replaced more arbitrary methods of taxation with a system based on systematic land measurement and the careful recording of crop yields and market prices over a ten-year period. By using these averages, the state could fix a stable and predictable revenue demand in cash. This provided more security for the peasants and ensured a more consistent income for the imperial treasury.

**252.** (A) The decline of Mughal imperial patronage, which led artists to seek work in regional courts.
The development of prominent regional styles like the Rajasthani and Pahari schools of painting was significantly influenced by shifts in imperial patronage. During the later Mughal period, especially under Aurangzeb, the imperial court's support for the arts declined. Consequently, many skilled artists migrated to regional courts

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in Rajasthan and the Himalayan foothills. These artists combined their Mughal technical training with local traditions and themes, leading to the flourishing of vibrant and distinct regional painting schools.

**253.** (A) Bengal
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was the most influential figure of the Bhakti movement in Bengal during the early sixteenth century. He popularized the emotional and ecstatic worship of Lord Krishna through 'Sankirtan', or congregational chanting and dancing. His message of divine love and spiritual equality attracted thousands of followers across various social backgrounds. Chaitanya's teachings and charismatic personality transformed the spiritual landscape of Bengal and laid the foundation for the vibrant Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition that continues today.

**254.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Mughal era was a period of exceptional literary flourishing in various languages. While Persian was the official language of the court and elite culture, this did not hinder the development of regional languages. The Bhakti and Sufi movements provided a powerful stimulus for the growth of vernacular literature, as saints and poets chose to write in the language of the common people. This led to a rich and diverse literary output in languages like Awadhi, Braj Bhasha, Marathi, and Bengali.

**255.** (A) The spiritual master and the disciple.
In Sufism, the 'Pir-Murid' relationship is the fundamental basis of mystical training and spiritual guidance. The 'Pir' is the spiritual master or teacher who has achieved a high state of mystical knowledge. The 'Murid' is the disciple or student who seeks spiritual enlightenment under the master's guidance. This deeply personal and sacred bond involves the transmission of spiritual secrets and the master's help in navigating the difficult journey toward a personal experience of God.

**256.** (A) VAT (Value Added Tax)
The tax systems in medieval India included several specific levies based on land, religion, and war. 'Kharaj' was a common land revenue tax, while 'Jizya' was a poll tax on non-Muslim subjects. 'Zakat' was a religious tithe obligatory for wealthy Muslims. These taxes provided the main sources of income for the state. 'VAT', or Value Added Tax, is a modern form of consumption tax introduced in recent decades and was entirely unknown in the medieval Indian economy.

**257.** (A) To hold discussions with scholars and theologians of different religions.
Akbar established the 'Ibadat Khana', or House of Worship, at Fatehpur Sikri in 1575. His primary purpose was to create a forum for deep theological and philosophical discussions. Initially limited to Islamic scholars, Akbar later invited representatives from various faiths, including Hindus, Jains, Christians, and Zoroastrians. These debates were central to his search for universal truths and significantly influenced his later policies of religious tolerance and the promotion of his syncretic ethical code, 'Din-i-Ilahi'.

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**258.** (A) The temple was the center of social and cultural life.
In the Vijayanagar Empire, the temple functioned as the absolute center of social, economic, and cultural life. These massive complexes were not only places of spiritual worship but also hubs for education, community gatherings, and political meetings. Temples were major landowners and employers, supporting thousands of artisans, priests, and dancers. They also hosted vibrant festivals and artistic performances, reflecting the deep integration of religious life with the broader societal and economic activities of the empire.

**259.** (A) Guru Tegh Bahadur
Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, was executed on the orders of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1675. This event was a major turning point in Sikh history. The Guru was martyred for his refusal to convert to Islam and for his stand against the religious persecution of Hindus in Kashmir. His execution profoundly affected the Sikh community, eventually leading his son, Guru Gobind Singh, to militarize the faith and establish the Khalsa to protect the community and its values.

**260.** (A) Taj Mahal
The architectural technique of 'pietra dura' involves inlaying precisely cut and polished

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semi-precious stones into white marble to create intricate floral and geometric patterns. While used in various Mughal structures, this technique is most magnificently and extensively showcased in the Taj Mahal. Built by Shah Jahan, the monument features exquisite pietra dura designs on its walls and tombs, reflecting the height of Mughal artistic sophistication and the incredible skill of contemporary craftsmen and stone-inlayers.

**261.** (A) 1, 2, 3
The development of the Bhakti movement and its related philosophies followed a clear chronological order. Shankaracharya, the proponent of Advaita, lived around the eighth century. Ramanuja, who introduced Vishishtadvaita, followed in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Kabir emerged much later, in the fifteenth century, as a major figure in the North Indian Bhakti movement. This progression reflects the evolution from complex intellectual philosophies toward more direct and popular forms of devotional spiritual expression throughout medieval Indian history.

**262.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
Transport in medieval India was not characterized by modern technologies like highways or railways. Instead, internal trade depended on more traditional and labor-intensive methods. Overland trade was primarily carried out using large caravans of pack animals, such as camels and oxen, and heavy bullock carts. River transport was also vital, with boats and barges carrying goods along major waterways like the Ganges and Indus. These methods, while slower than modern systems, effectively sustained a vibrant and extensive internal commercial network.

**263.** (A) Braj Bhasha and Rajasthani
Meerabai was a celebrated Rajput princess and Bhakti saint whose spiritual life was dedicated to Lord Krishna. Her numerous devotional songs, known as Bhajans, were composed in the vernacular dialects of her region, primarily Rajasthani and Braj Bhasha. By using these local languages rather than formal Sanskrit, her message of passionate divine love and surrender became immensely popular among the common people. Her poetry remains a foundational part of the cultural and religious heritage of North and West India.

**264.** (A) Impart religious knowledge and train individuals for state service.
The primary goal of the educational system in medieval India was to produce individuals who were well-versed in religious traditions and capable of serving the state's administrative needs. Maktabs and Madrasas provided instruction in theology, languages, and law. This ensured that the bureaucracy was staffed by literate officials and the legal system by trained jurists (Qazis). Education was therefore deeply tied to the maintenance of religious identity and the practical functioning of the imperial or regional government's bureaucratic structures.

**265.** (A) He patronized music and painting at his court.
Aurangzeb's religious policy was marked by a strict adherence to Islamic orthodoxy, which led him to discourage or ban practices he considered inconsistent with his beliefs. This included a significant shift away from the arts; he banned instrumental music from the court and significantly reduced the state's patronage of painting. He reimposed the Jizya tax and discontinued court practices like 'jharokha-darshan'. Consequently, many court artists and musicians sought support in regional courts, which helped spread various artistic styles.

**266.** (A) Their conception of God as formless or with form.
The two main branches of the Bhakti movement, Nirguna and Saguna, were distinguished by their fundamental theological outlook on the nature of the Divine. Saguna Bhakti emphasizes devotion to God in a physical form with specific personality traits and attributes, such as Rama or Krishna. Nirguna Bhakti, in contrast, focuses on the worship of a formless, attribute-less, and omnipresent divine principle that cannot be represented by physical idols. These differing conceptions led to variations in worship practices and devotional poetry.

**267.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Vijayanagar Empire was exceptionally prosperous, as recorded by numerous contemporary travelers. This economic strength was rooted in a flourishing agricultural sector, which the state supported through large-

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scale irrigation projects like tanks and dams. Furthermore, the empire's strategic position allowed it to control major ports on both coasts, facilitating a highly lucrative overseas trade in spices, textiles, and precious stones. The wealth generated from these sources sustained the empire's grand architecture and its powerful military and administrative structures.

**268.** (A) Sant Gyaneshwara
The 'Gyaneshwari' is a profound and highly influential commentary on the Bhagavad Gita, written in the Marathi language in the late thirteenth century. It was authored by Sant Gyaneshwara, a pivotal figure in the Bhakti movement of Maharashtra. By translating and explaining complex Sanskrit philosophical concepts into the vernacular, he made spiritual knowledge accessible to the common people. This work laid the foundation for the Varkari devotional tradition and remains a cornerstone of Marathi literature and cultural identity.

**269.** (A) Muslim society
While often perceived as egalitarian, medieval Indian Muslim society featured significant social divisions based on ethnic origins and lineage. A major distinction existed between the 'Ashraf', who claimed descent from foreign-born groups like Turks, Persians, and Afghans, and the 'Ajlaf', who were indigenous converts from local Indian communities. These hierarchical divisions often influenced an individual's social status, their professional opportunities, and their access to high positions within the administrative and political framework of the Sultanate and Mughal periods.

**270.** (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
Medieval Indian architecture featured distinctive monuments associated with various rulers and dynasties. The Qutub Minar was initiated by Qutb-ud-din Aibak of the Delhi Sultanate. The Buland Darwaza was constructed by Akbar at Fatehpur Sikri. The Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur built the massive Gol Gumbaz. Shahjahan's reign is famous for the sophisticated use of white marble and intricate pietra dura inlay work, culminating in iconic structures like the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort.

**271.** (A) A society structured around the Varna and Jati system, with hierarchical divisions.
Medieval Hindu society continued to be primarily organized around the ancient Varna and Jati systems. This social structure created a rigid hierarchy based on birth, which determined an individual's status, occupation, and social interactions. Over time, numerous sub-castes, or jatis, emerged due to regional identities and specialized professions. While the Bhakti movement challenged certain aspects of this system, the overall societal framework remained deeply hierarchical and governed by traditional birth-based rules and community customs.

**272.** (A) 3 only
Relations between the Mughal Empire and the Sikh community varied significantly over different reigns. Early relations were generally stable, and the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur occurred during the reign of Aurangzeb, not Jahangir. The establishment of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 was a direct and transformative response to the sustained periods of Mughal persecution and political oppression. This new, disciplined martial order allowed the Sikh community to effectively protect their faith and resist imperial authority.

**273.** (A) Mughal
The 'Diwan-i-Khas', or Hall of Private Audience, and the 'Diwan-i-Aam', or Hall of Public Audience, were fundamental architectural features of Mughal palace complexes. These grand halls served as the primary settings for the emperor's official duties and ceremonies. In the Diwan-i-Aam, the emperor met with his subjects and heard their petitions, while the Diwan-i-Khas was reserved for meetings with high-ranking nobles and foreign dignitaries. These structures reflected the highly centralized and ceremonial nature of Mughal imperial rule.

**274.** (A) Unity of Being
'Wahdat-ul-Wujud' is a central philosophical concept in Sufism, which translates to the 'Unity of Being'. It posits that all of creation is essentially a manifestation of a single, ultimate reality—the Divine. This doctrine suggests that there is no fundamental separation between God and the material world. While controversial among some orthodox theologians, this inclusive philosophy

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had a profound impact on Indian Sufism, facilitating meaningful dialogue with similar concepts in Indian philosophical traditions like Advaita Vedanta.

**275.** (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.
The Bhakti movement was not a monolithic entity; it was a diverse and multifaceted spiritual phenomenon that spanned several centuries and various regions. It encompassed a wide range of saints, languages, and philosophies. While united by a focus on personal devotion to God, the movement included both 'Nirguna' (formless) and 'Saguna' (with form) traditions. It featured diverse sects focused on Vaishnavism, Shaivism, and various regional deities, reflecting the extraordinary cultural and spiritual pluralism of medieval India.

**276.** (A) Land revenue
Throughout the medieval period, land revenue remained the most important and consistent source of income for the state. Both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire established sophisticated systems to assess and collect taxes from agricultural produce. Since India was primarily an agrarian economy, the state's financial stability and its ability to maintain a large military and bureaucracy depended heavily on the efficient collection of these revenues from millions of peasants across the vast subcontinent.

**277.** (A) Hindu epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, and Krishna Lila.
The Rajasthani school of painting is renowned for its vibrant and highly expressive depictions of Hindu devotional and mythological themes. Its primary subjects were often drawn from the great epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, as well as the 'Krishna Lila', which portrays the legends of Lord Krishna's life. These paintings are characterized by bold colors, strong outlines, and a profound emotional connection to the themes of the Bhakti movement, reflecting the deep cultural and religious traditions of Rajasthan.

**278.** (A) Akbar
Akbar is the Mughal emperor most famously associated with the principle of 'Sulh-i-Kul', which translates to 'universal peace' or 'peace with all'. This policy was the cornerstone of his religious approach, promoting tolerance and mutual respect among the diverse faiths within his empire. By integrating people from all backgrounds into his administration and encouraging inter-faith dialogue, Akbar sought to create a stable, unified state where individuals of all religions could live and prosper together without fear of persecution.

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**279.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
During the medieval period, the social condition of women in some respects saw a decline due to the spread of several restrictive practices. The prevalence of Sati and Jauhar, especially in times of war, and the widespread practice of child marriage significantly limited their well-being and social opportunities. Furthermore, the adoption of the Purdah system among the upper classes of both Hindu and Muslim communities led to greater seclusion, reflecting the increasingly patriarchal nature of contemporary social norms.

**280.** (A) Tukaram
Sant Tukaram was a highly influential Marathi Bhakti saint who played a crucial role in popularizing the 'Varkari' tradition. Centered on the worship of Lord Vithoba of Pandharpur, this tradition emphasized simple devotion, moral living, and the spiritual equality of all people. Tukaram's 'Abhangas', composed in the local language, expressed his intense personal devotion and his critique of social hypocrisy. His teachings resonated deeply with the common people and remain a vital part of the cultural and religious fabric of Maharashtra today.

**281.** (A) Humayun and Akbar
The architectural styles of Humayun and Akbar mark a significant transition in Mughal design, characterized by the combined use of red sandstone and white marble. While red sandstone remained the primary building material, white marble was increasingly used for decorative elements, such as domes and inlay work. This combination, seen in Humayun's Tomb and Fatehpur Sikri, bridged the gap between the more robust earlier styles and the more delicate, marble-focused architecture that reached its peak under later emperors like Shah Jahan.

**8.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Concept)
P. Dyarchy
Q. Orientalism
R. Paramountcy
S. Khilafat
List II: (Description)
1. A perspective that studied and often romanticized Eastern cultures, but from a position of Western superiority.
2. The system of dual government in the provinces introduced by the Act of 1919.
3. The British claim of ultimate sovereignty over the Indian princely states.
4. A pan-Islamic movement to protect the authority of the Turkish Sultan as the Caliph.
Codes:
(A) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

**9.** Which of the following sources is not generally categorized as a form of archival material for studying modern Indian history?
(A) Biographies and memoirs
(B) Newspapers
(C) Archaeological artifacts
(D) Oral evidence

**10.** The concept of 'Drain Theory', which argued that Britain was systematically draining wealth from India, was most famously articulated by:
(A) Dadabhai Naoroji
(B) R.C. Dutt
(C) M.G. Ranade
(D) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

**11.** Consider the following statements regarding European traders in India:
1. The Portuguese were the first European traders to establish a significant presence in India.
2. The Dutch primarily focused their trading activities on textiles and spices.
3. The French were the last European power to establish trading posts in India.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**12.** The "forward policy" of the British in India was primarily related to:
(A) Domestic social reforms.
(B) Relations with states on the northwestern frontier, particularly Afghanistan.
(C) Economic policies aimed at promoting industrialization.
(D) The expansion of the railway network into southern India.

**13.** Which historiographical approach focuses on the perspectives and experiences of marginalized and non-elite groups in Indian history?
(A) Imperialist
(B) Nationalist
(C) Subaltern
(D) Marxist

**14.** The establishment of the Supreme Court at Calcutta and the evolution of a central administrative structure began with which Act?
(A) Pitt's India Act of 1784
(B) The Charter Act of 1833
(C) The Charter Act of 1853
(D) The Regulating Act of 1773

**15.** Arrange the following European powers in the chronological order of their first establishment of trading centers in India:
1. French
2. British
3. Portuguese
4. Dutch
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 3, 4, 2, 1
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4
(D) 2, 3, 1, 4

**16.** Which of the following correctly identifies a pair of an economic historian and their major work or concept?
(A) Dadabhai Naoroji - Deindustrialization
(B) R.C. Dutt - The Economic History of India
(C) Karl Marx - Commercialization of agriculture

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**289.** (A) Monotheism, social equality, and ethical conduct.
The teachings of the Sikh Gurus were rooted in a powerful message of spiritual and social reform. They strongly emphasized monotheism, the belief in one eternal God, and rejected ritualism and idol worship. Central to their philosophy was the fundamental equality of all human beings, which led to a direct challenge to the birth-based caste hierarchy. They advocated for an ethical life based on honest labor, selfless service to the community, and constant meditation on the divine name.

**290.** (A) A shift towards Islamic orthodoxy.
Aurangzeb's religious policy was characterized by a marked shift away from the liberal and syncretic traditions of his predecessors. He adopted a more orthodox and puritanical interpretation of Islam, which led him to reimpose the Jizya tax on non-Muslims and to discourage several traditional court ceremonies he viewed as un-Islamic. This policy change aimed at restoring the traditional Islamic character of the state, but it also contributed to political tensions and alienated many of his non-Muslim subjects and allies.

**291.** (A) Spices and textiles
During the medieval period, India was a global center for trade, with its products in extremely high demand across Asia and Europe. The most significant items of export were fine cotton and silk textiles, for which India was world-renowned. Spices, such as pepper, cinnamon, and cardamom, were also major exports, especially from the southern regions. These high-value goods ensured a consistently favorable balance of trade for India, attracting vast amounts of precious metals from international merchants.

**292.** (A) Vallabhacharya
Vallabhacharya was a prominent fourteenth-century philosopher and saint who founded the 'Pushtimarg', or the 'Path of Grace'. This school of Vaishnavism centers on the worship of Lord Krishna and emphasizes that spiritual liberation is achieved through the absolute grace of God rather than through individual effort or ritual alone. His teachings and the devotional practices he established became highly influential in North and West India, significantly shaping the Krishna-centered traditions of the Bhakti movement.

**293.** (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
The Mughal school of painting was a sophisticated blend that synthesized Persian miniature painting with vibrant, indigenous Indian artistic traditions. This style emerged and flourished under the patronage of emperors like Akbar and Jahangir. However, the art form did not reach its zenith under Aurangzeb. Instead, his reign saw a significant decline in imperial patronage for the arts as he shifted his focus toward architectural projects and the enforcement of orthodox religious pursuits.

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**294.** (A) Akbar
The legendary musician Tansen was a central figure in the court of Emperor Akbar and was one of his 'Nine Jewels'. Akbar's reign was a period of exceptional patronage for music, and Tansen's extraordinary talent helped integrate diverse musical traditions. He is credited with developing several new ragas and significantly influencing the evolution of Hindustani classical music. His presence in the Mughal court reflected Akbar's deep personal interest in the arts and his efforts to promote a vibrant, syncretic cultural environment.

**295.** (A) They were all prosperous and free from debt.
The economic condition of peasants in medieval India was generally quite difficult and far from consistently prosperous. While they were a differentiated group with varying levels of land rights, most were subject to high land revenue demands from the state, which could take a large portion of their harvest. Additionally, they often had to pay various other cesses and were vulnerable to fluctuations in crop yields due to weather, frequently leading to significant levels of debt among the rural population.

**296.** (A) Guru Nanak
Guru Nanak was the visionary founder of the Sikh faith in the late fifteenth century. His teachings provided the spiritual and social foundations of the religion, emphasizing the worship of one formless God and the fundamental equality of all human beings. He traveled extensively to share his message and established a community of followers focused on honest living, selfless

service, and meditation. His spiritual legacy was continued and developed by a succession of nine more human Gurus.

**297.** (A) Harmony and tolerance among all religions.
'Sulh-i-Kul', or 'universal peace', was a central concept propagated by Akbar as the foundation of his religious policy. It emphasized the underlying unity of all faiths and promoted a spirit of harmony and tolerance among his diverse subjects. By adopting this principle, Akbar sought to move the state beyond narrow religious sectarianism and to create a more inclusive political order based on mutual respect and shared ethical values, which significantly contributed to the stability of his vast empire.

**298.** (A) Krishnadevaraya
'Amuktamalyada' is a highly celebrated Telugu work on political theory and statecraft authored by the Vijayanagar ruler Krishnadevaraya. In this epic poem, the king provides detailed advice on the duties of a monarch and the efficient management of a state, reflecting his own experiences and his deep intellectual and cultural interests. This work is considered one of the five great kavyas of Telugu literature and serves as a testament to the sophisticated political thought and literary achievements of his reign.

**299.** (A) Adornment by both men and women, and as a mark of status.
In medieval Indian society, ornaments were widely used for personal adornment by both men and women across various social classes and communities. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, jewelry made from gold, silver, and precious stones served as a significant mark of wealth and high social status. Furthermore, certain ornaments often had religious or symbolic meanings, reflecting the wearer's beliefs or offering spiritual protection. The widespread use of ornaments highlights the sophisticated level of craftsmanship and the cultural importance of personal display during the period.

**300.** (B) Naqshbandi
Among the various Sufi orders that flourished in India, the Naqshbandi silsila was known for being the most orthodox and conservative. Unlike the more liberal Chishti order, the Naqshbandis emphasized the strict adherence to the Sharia and traditional Islamic laws. They were particularly influential during the later Mughal period, when they advocated for a return to a more puritanical form of Islam and opposed various religious and cultural innovations they considered un-Islamic, significantly impacting the religious policies of some later rulers.

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# CHAPTER 07
# History of Modern India

**1.** Which concept refers to the policy by which a native state's defense and foreign relations were controlled by the British, in return for a payment or cession of territory?
(A) Doctrine of Lapse
(B) Subsidiary Alliance
(C) Paramountcy
(D) Dyarchy

**2.** Consider the following statements regarding historiography:
Statement I: The Nationalist school of historiography focused on glorifying India's past and criticizing colonial rule.
Statement II: The Imperialist school of historiography often justified British rule by portraying Indians as incapable of self-governance.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

**3.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the administration under the East India Company?
(A) The structure of the central administration evolved between 1773 and 1853.
(B) The Company established a formal police and army structure.
(C) Local Self-Government was a key feature of the early Company administration.
(D) A system of judiciary was developed under the Company's rule.

**4.** The policy of 'Doctrine of Lapse' is most appropriately defined as:
(A) A military strategy for rapid territorial expansion.
(B) The annexation of a princely state if its ruler was manifestly incompetent.
(C) A trade agreement compelling states to sell goods only to the British.
(D) The annexation of a princely state if its ruler died without a natural heir.

**5.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The commercialization of agriculture during British rule led to increased rural indebtedness.
Reason (R): Farmers were forced to grow cash crops for the market, often at the expense of food crops, making them vulnerable to price fluctuations and money-lenders.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**6.** Which social reformer is primarily associated with the establishment of educational institutions for women and widows, leading to the founding of a women's university?
(A) Jyotiba Phule
(B) Keshav Dhondo Karve
(C) Dayanand Saraswati
(D) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

**7.** What was the primary purpose of the Vernacular Press Act of 1878?
(A) To promote newspapers published in Indian languages.
(B) To provide financial assistance to the vernacular press.
(C) To establish a government-run newspaper agency.
(D) To control and suppress seditious writing in Indian-language newspapers.

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**282.** (A) Kabir, Ravidas, and Baba Farid
The 'Adi Granth', the central holy scripture of Sikhism, is unique for its inclusive character. In addition to the hymns of the Sikh Gurus, it contains the spiritual compositions of several prominent non-Sikh saints from the Bhakti and Sufi traditions. These include voices like Kabir, a weaver; Ravidas, a cobbler; and Baba Farid, a Muslim Sufi mystic. This synthesis reflects the universal spiritual vision of the Sikh Gurus and their recognition of profound spiritual truths across different religious and social backgrounds.

**283.** (A) It was vibrant, with India having a favorable balance of trade, exporting more than it imported.
Foreign trade during the Mughal period was exceptionally vibrant and highly profitable for India. The country enjoyed a consistently favorable balance of trade because its high-quality exports, such as fine textiles, spices, and indigo, were in great demand across the world. In exchange for these goods, foreign merchants imported vast amounts of gold and silver bullion. This influx of precious metals, along with horses and luxury items, sustained India's wealth and made it one of the world's leading commercial powers.

**284.** (A) The construction of massive temple complexes with ornate gopurams and mandapas.
A defining feature of South Indian architecture during the medieval period was the development of grand temple complexes. Rulers, especially under the Vijayanagar Empire, significantly elaborated upon earlier styles by adding massive, highly ornate entrance towers called 'Gopurams' and large, multi-pillared halls known as 'Mandapas'. These structures were decorated with thousands of intricate stone carvings depicting mythological scenes and deities, reflecting the empire's immense wealth and its deep-seated commitment to patronizing religious and cultural institutions.

**285.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Medieval India witnessed the development of several sophisticated philosophical schools within the Vedantic tradition. Shankaracharya propounded 'Advaita', or non-dualism, which emphasizes the ultimate unity of the soul and the divine. Ramanujacharya introduced 'Vishishtadvaita', or qualified non-dualism, which provided a foundation for personal devotion. Madhvacharya established the 'Dvaita' school, which focuses on the distinct dualism between the individual soul and God. Together, these schools provided a diverse intellectual framework for Hindu thought and influenced various branches of the Bhakti movement.

**286.** (A) Primary education
In the educational system of medieval India, 'Maktabs' served as the primary centers for basic learning. Often attached to local mosques, these institutions were designed to provide young children with fundamental skills in reading and writing, particularly in Persian or Arabic. The curriculum primarily focused on religious fundamentals and basic literacy, preparing students for daily religious life or for further, more advanced instruction in Madrasas, which were the higher learning institutions of the period.

**287.** (A) Land whose revenue was reserved for the imperial treasury.
In the Mughal administrative system, 'Khalisa' referred to a specific category of land whose revenues were directly managed by state officials for the imperial treasury. Unlike 'Jagir' land, which was assigned to nobles as their salary, the income from Khalisa lands was used to cover the personal expenses of the emperor and to maintain the central government's functions, including the payment of state officials and the maintenance of the large standing army.

**288.** (A) Prominence of temple-centric activities.
Social life in the Vijayanagar Empire was profoundly centered on the activities of its massive temple complexes. These temples were much more than places of worship; they functioned as the heart of social, cultural, and economic life. Temples were major landowners, provided education, and served as venues for community festivals, artistic performances, and social gatherings. This deep integration of religious institutions into the broader societal framework was a distinctive and defining feature of life in the empire.

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(D) Adam Smith - Rural Indebtedness

**17.** The contribution of Savitribai Phule is most significant in the field of:
(A) The trade union movement.
(B) Women's education and social reform.
(C) The promotion of Western science.
(D) The Khilafat movement.

**18.** What was a direct consequence of the destruction of cottage industries and handicrafts during British rule?
(A) The process of deindustrialization and increased pressure on agriculture.
(B) A rapid increase in the number of major modern industries.
(C) An improvement in the socio-economic condition of artisans.
(D) A decrease in rural indebtedness.

**19.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was criticized as a discriminatory and repressive measure.
Reason (R): It specifically targeted newspapers published in Indian languages, exempting the English-language press from its provisions.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**20.** Which of the following statements about the British relationship with Mysore is correct?
(A) The British formed a permanent Subsidiary Alliance with Tipu Sultan.
(B) Mysore was peacefully integrated into the British empire without any major wars.
(C) Mysore remained completely independent of British influence throughout the 18th century.
(D) The British fought a series of major wars against Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan for control of the region.

**21.** The term 'dyarchy' in the context of Indian constitutional changes between 1909 and 1935 refers to:
(A) The division of power between the central government and provincial governments.
(B) The system of separate electorates for different communities.
(C) The division of provincial subjects into 'transferred' and 'reserved' categories.
(D) The establishment of a bicameral legislature at the center.

**22.** The Theosophical Society, with which Annie Besant was associated, primarily aimed to:
(A) Promote militant nationalism and revolutionary activities.
(B) Encourage universal brotherhood and the study of comparative religion and philosophy.
(C) Establish a political party to compete with the Indian National Congress.
(D) Advocate for the complete westernization of Indian education and society.

**23.** Which of the following was not a major feature of the British land settlement policies?
(A) Permanent Settlement
(B) Ryotwari Settlement
(C) Mahalwari Settlement
(D) Jagirdari Settlement

**24.** The Marxist school of Indian historiography primarily interprets modern Indian history through the lens of:
(A) The conflict between social and economic classes.
(B) The civilizing mission of the British Empire.
(C) The nationalistic struggle for freedom.
(D) The agency of subaltern or non-elite groups.

**25.** The Licensing Act of 1857 was enacted primarily in response to:
(A) The rising demand for more newspapers in India.
(B) The need to regulate the prices of popular newspapers.
(C) The outbreak of the Revolt of 1857 and the need to control the press.
(D) A petition from English newspaper owners for protection.

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**42.** Which of the following sources is categorized under 'creative literature and painting' for the study of modern Indian history?
(A) Novels and artworks depicting colonial society
(B) Government gazettes and reports
(C) Personal letters of political leaders
(D) Census data and economic surveys

**43.** The "Drain Theory" primarily critiqued which aspect of British rule?
(A) The social reform initiatives.
(B) The introduction of English education.
(C) The judicial and legal systems.
(D) The economic exploitation and transfer of wealth from India to Britain.

**44.** Which of the following is a correct statement regarding the impact of British education policy?
(A) It successfully eradicated illiteracy in India.
(B) It created a small, urban, English-educated class that often sought government employment.
(C) It placed a strong emphasis on technical and vocational training for the masses.
(D) It exclusively promoted traditional Indian gurukuls and pathshalas.

**45.** The term 'deindustrialization' in the context of Indian economic history refers to:
(A) The growth of major modern industries in cities like Bombay and Calcutta.
(B) The British government's policy to stop industrial development in India.
(C) The decline and destruction of traditional cottage industries and handicrafts.
(D) The movement of labor from agriculture to the industrial sector.

**46.** Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Dayanand Saraswati - Arya Samaj
(B) Annie Besant - Theosophical Society
(C) Jyotiba Phule - Satyasodhak Samaj
(D) Syed Ahmad Khan - Brahmo Samaj

**47.** The constitutional changes between 1909 and 1935 were marked by:
(A) The gradual introduction of representative elements and provincial autonomy.
(B) A consistent move towards complete independence for India.
(C) The complete abolition of the princely states.
(D) The transfer of all power to the Indian National Congress.

**48.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (British Policy)
P. Subsidiary Alliance
Q. Doctrine of Lapse
R. Forward Policy
S. Paramountcy
List II: (Key Feature)
1. Annexation of states lacking a natural heir
2. Assertion of ultimate British authority over princely states
3. Control over a state's defense and foreign affairs
4. Proactive intervention on the North-West frontier
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1

**49.** What was the main objective of the Khilafat Movement?
(A) To demand separate electorates for Muslims.
(B) To protest against the British government's treatment of the Ottoman Empire and preserve the authority of the Caliph.
(C) To establish a Muslim state in India.
(D) To promote modern education among Indian Muslims.

**50.** The Imperialist school of historiography would most likely present the Revolt of 1857 as:
(A) A minor sepoy mutiny caused by religious grievances.
(B) A national war of independence.
(C) A class struggle against feudal lords.
(D) A subaltern uprising against elite domination.

**51.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The establishment of a professional police force under the British was a

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Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**34.** Which of the following were not among the earliest European traders to establish a presence in India before the British consolidated their power?
(A) German
(B) Portuguese
(C) Dutch
(D) French

**35.** The development of the Civil Service, Judiciary, Police, and Army under the Company and the Crown was primarily aimed at:
(A) Promoting the welfare and prosperity of the Indian population.
(B) Preparing Indians for self-governance and independence.
(C) Strengthening the administrative and military control of the British over India.
(D) Eradicating social evils like Sati and child marriage.

**36.** Consider the following statements related to the economic impact of British rule:
1. Deindustrialization referred to the decline of traditional Indian handicrafts and industries.
2. The British monetary policy was always designed to benefit the Indian economy.
3. Famines and epidemics were often exacerbated by government policies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**37.** The contributions of Jyotiba Phule were primarily focused on:
(A) The revival of Vedic traditions and culture.
(B) The economic critique of British colonialism.
(C) Challenging the caste system and promoting education for lower castes and women.
(D) The promotion of Western political thought among the Indian elite.

**38.** The concept of 'Orientalism' as a school of thought involved:
(A) The direct imposition of Western culture and administration on India.
(B) The study of Indian languages, literature, and culture by Western scholars.
(C) The political movement for Indian self-rule based on Western models.
(D) The economic exploitation of the East by Western powers.

**39.** The evolution of provincial structure under the East India Company between 1773 and 1853 was a process that led to:
(A) Greater autonomy for provincial governments.
(B) The establishment of democratic institutions at the provincial level.
(C) The complete abolition of provincial administrations.
(D) Increasing centralization of power under the Governor-General.

**40.** Arrange the following events/policies in chronological order:
1. Introduction of Dyarchy in provinces
2. Establishment of British Paramountcy over princely states
3. Implementation of the Doctrine of Lapse
4. Enactment of the Regulating Act

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 4, 2, 3, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 2, 4, 1, 3

**41.** Which statement best describes the British relationship with Oudh (Avadh)?
(A) Oudh was the first state to be annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse.
(B) Oudh was a consistent military ally of the British against the Marathas.
(C) Oudh was subjected to the Subsidiary Alliance and later annexed on grounds of misgovernance.
(D) Oudh remained independent until the partition of India in 1947.

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(A) Directly engaging in revolutionary violence.
(B) Encouraging Indians to feel pride in their ancient philosophical and religious heritage.
(C) Demanding the immediate and complete withdrawal of the British.
(D) Focusing exclusively on providing English education to the elite.

**77.** The term "dyarchy" introduced by the Government of India Act, 1919, in the provinces, meant:
(A) A system of two houses in the legislature.
(B) A separate judicial system for Europeans and Indians.
(C) A division of subjects for administration between British officials and Indian ministers.
(D) A coalition government of the Congress and the Muslim League.

**78.** The primary difference between the Portuguese and the British as trading powers in India was that:
(A) The Portuguese were never interested in territorial control, unlike the British.
(B) The British arrived in India before the Portuguese.
(C) The British were primarily interested in the spice trade, while the Portuguese focused on textiles.
(D) The British focused more on systematic territorial expansion and economic integration than the Portuguese.

**79.** Which of the following is not typically considered a primary source for the study of modern Indian history?
(A) A modern-day textbook on the history of British India.
(B) Archival materials like government records.
(C) A newspaper published in 1885.
(D) The memoirs of a 19th-century British official.

**80.** A key feature of the "labour and trade union movement" in its early phase was:
(A) Its focus on overthrowing the colonial government through violent means.
(B) Its philanthropic and moderate character, often seeking legislative improvements rather than direct confrontation.
(C) Its strong organization and nationwide influence from the very beginning.
(D) Its complete control by the British government.

**81.** The relationship between 'famines and epidemics' and government policy suggests that during British rule:
(A) Government policies were always effective in preventing and mitigating famines.
(B) Government policies, such as revenue demands and export of food grains, often worsened the impact of famines.
(C) Famines were natural disasters entirely unrelated to government actions.
(D) The British government successfully eradicated epidemics through advanced medical care for all.

**82.** The work of Pandita Ramabai is an example of:
(A) A woman working for the education and welfare of other women, especially widows.
(B) A woman leading a political movement for independence.
(C) A woman who became a prominent economic historian.
(D) A woman who led a major trade union.

**83.** Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) Local Self-Government - Lord Curzon
(B) Doctrine of Lapse - Lord Wellesley
(C) Vernacular Press Act - Lord Lytton
(D) Subsidiary Alliance - Lord Dalhousie

**84.** Arrange the following in the correct chronological sequence of their main period of activity or contribution:
1. Dadabhai Naoroji's articulation of Drain Theory
2. Raja Ram Mohan Roy's campaign against Sati
3. Jyotiba Phule's work for lower-caste education
4. Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 3, 4
(D) 3, 2, 4, 1

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key element in maintaining their rule.
Reason (R): The police were instrumental in suppressing dissent, controlling crime, and enforcing the authority of the colonial state.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**52.** The commercialization of agriculture under British rule implies:
(A) The government taking over all agricultural land for commercial purposes.
(B) A decline in all forms of agricultural production.
(C) The equal distribution of agricultural profits among all farmers.
(D) A shift from subsistence farming to the production of crops for the market.

**53.** Raja Ram Mohan Roy's contribution to education was marked by his advocacy for:
(A) The exclusive study of Sanskrit and ancient texts.
(B) A purely vocational and technical education system.
(C) The synthesis of modern Western learning with Indian culture.
(D) The complete rejection of English language education.

**54.** The term 'Nationalism' in the context of modern India is best understood as:
(A) The assertion of supremacy of one religious community over others.
(B) The consciousness of a shared identity and the aspiration for political unity and sovereignty as a nation.
(C) The loyalty of a person to their immediate princely state or region.
(D) The cultural movement that romanticized India's ancient past without political goals.

**55.** Which of the following was a primary reason for British conflict with the Sikhs?
(A) The Sikh refusal to accept the Subsidiary Alliance.
(B) Competition over the control of trade routes to Central Asia.
(C) Religious differences between the British and the Sikh rulers.
(D) The strategic importance of the Punjab region after the conquest of Sindh and the decline of the Marathas.

**56.** Consider the following statements regarding sources of modern Indian history:
1. Biographies and memoirs offer personal perspectives but may be subjective.
2. Oral evidence helps understand the experiences of those who left no written records.
3. Newspapers from the period are a valuable source for understanding public opinion and political debates.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**57.** The establishment and expansion of British rule in Bengal was decisively achieved after which battle?
(A) The Battle of Plassey
(B) The Third Battle of Panipat
(C) The Battle of Buxar
(D) The Battle of Wandiwash

**58.** "Rural indebtedness" as an economic phenomenon during British rule was largely a consequence of:
(A) High land revenue demands, commercialization of agriculture, and the role of moneylenders.
(B) The abundance of cheap credit from government banks.
(C) The government's policy of giving interest-free loans to farmers.
(D) The destruction of modern industries, forcing people back to prosperous agriculture.

**59.** The development of a modern army by the British in India did not include which of the following features?
(A) Regular payment of salaries to soldiers.
(B) Strict discipline and training along European lines.

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**26.** Which of the following best describes the concept of 'Paramountcy' exercised by the British Crown?
(A) The assertion of supreme British authority over the princely states, superseding their indigenous sovereignty.
(B) The administrative policy of direct territorial governance over all areas within the Indian subcontinent.
(C) A centralized system for the direct collection of agricultural revenue from the local cultivators.
(D) The administrative principle of absolute non-interference regarding the domestic affairs of native states.

**27.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Social Reformer)
P. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
Q. Dayanand Saraswati
R. Swami Vivekananda
S. Syed Ahmad Khan
List II: (Associated Contribution/Organization)
1. Aligarh Movement
2. Ramakrishna Mission
3. Arya Samaj
4. Brahmo Samaj
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3

**28.** The term 'Communalism' in the context of modern Indian history refers to:
(A) The policy of commercializing agriculture for profit.
(B) An ideology that emphasizes the separate and antagonistic interests of different religious communities.
(C) A social system based on community ownership of land.
(D) The movement for local self-government in urban areas.

**29.** Consider the following statements about British education policy:
1. It primarily aimed to preserve and promote traditional Indian systems of learning.
2. The policy led to the creation of a new class of English-educated Indians.
3. It had a uniform and positive impact across all sections of Indian society.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 2 and 3 only

**30.** The British relationship with the Marathas in the late 18th and early 19th centuries was characterized by:
(A) A consistent and peaceful alliance against other Indian powers.
(B) The complete indifference of the British towards the Maratha confederacy.
(C) The voluntary acceptance of the Doctrine of Lapse by all Maratha chiefs.
(D) A series of wars leading to the eventual subjugation of Maratha power.

**31.** Which of the following is an incorrect pairing of a concept and its meaning?
(A) Dyarchy - A system of single, unified government in provinces.
(B) Colonialism - The policy of acquiring and maintaining colonies.
(C) Doctrine of Lapse - Annexation of states without a natural heir.
(D) Khilafat - A movement to uphold the authority of the Caliph of Turkey.

**32.** The 'Subaltern' school of historiography was a critique of which of the following approaches?
(A) Orientalist historiography only
(B) Both Nationalist and Marxist elite-centric historiography
(C) Imperialist historiography only
(D) Creative literature as a source of history

**33.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The introduction of modern industries by the British in India was limited and lopsided.
Reason (R): British policy prioritized the development of industries in Britain and treated India as a source of raw materials and a market for finished goods.

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(D) A is false but R is true.

**68.** The growth of the 'labour and trade union movement' in modern India was a direct consequence of:
(A) The success of cottage industries.
(B) The government's policy to encourage collective bargaining.
(C) The decline in rural indebtedness.
(D) The emergence of modern industries and a factory workforce.

**69.** Which of the following British laws related to women was a result of social reform movements?
(A) The Vernacular Press Act of 1878
(B) The Ilbert Bill controversy
(C) The Sati Regulation Act of 1829
(D) The Rowlatt Act of 1919

**70.** The period before 1857 saw the Indian press as:
(A) Completely free and unregulated by the government.
(B) A growing entity, but subject to periodic regulations and restrictions.
(C) Non-existent, with the first newspaper appearing only after 1857.
(D) Exclusively run and managed by the East India Company.

**71.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Subsidiary Alliance
Q. Doctrine of Lapse
R. Khilafat
S. Drain Theory
List II: (Associated Power/Person)
1. Lord Dalhousie
2. Lord Wellesley
3. Dadabhai Naoroji
4. Ottoman Sultan
Codes:
(A) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

**72.** "The policy was justified by the British on the grounds of ensuring the 'welfare' of the people against a tyrannical and inefficient native rule, but it was seen by Indians as a blatant act of imperial expansion." This description best fits the British annexation of which state?
(A) Oudh
(B) Mysore
(C) Punjab
(D) Hyderabad

**73.** The Nationalist school of historiography is criticized for:
(A) Actively justifying and promoting the various benefits of British colonial governance and administration.
(B) Overemphasizing the role of class struggle and economic conflict as the primary drivers of history.
(C) Tending to minimize internal social conflicts to present a unified narrative of the national struggle.
(D) Deliberately ignoring the significant contributions of high-profile national leaders in the freedom movement.

**74.** Consider the following statements about the administration of the Crown after 1858:
1. The policy of 'Paramountcy' over princely states was abandoned.
2. The structure of the Civil Service, Police, and Army was reorganized to ensure British dominance.
3. Steps were taken to introduce Local Self-Government in a limited way.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**75.** R.C. Dutt, in his economic critique of British rule, primarily focused on:
(A) Praising the British for modernizing the Indian economy.
(B) Advocating for a Marxist revolution in India.
(C) Proposing the 'Drain Theory' for the first time.
(D) Analyzing the decline of Indian industries and the impact of land revenue policies.

**76.** The Theosophical Society under Annie Besant contributed to the Indian national awakening by:

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(A) A direct continuation of traditional loyalties to kings and chieftains.
(B) A modern phenomenon that emerged under the conditions of colonial rule, in opposition to it.
(C) An idea that existed in its modern form since ancient times.
(D) A concept exclusively promoted by the British to unify the country for administrative purposes.

**93.** The primary difference between 'biographies and memoirs' and 'archival materials' as sources is that:
(A) Archival materials are always truthful, while biographies are fictional.
(B) Archival materials are written sources, while biographies are oral sources.
(C) Biographies provide a personal and often subjective viewpoint, while archival materials are official records.
(D) Biographies are useful for economic history, while archival materials are for political history.

**94.** The introduction of Local Self-Government under the Crown's administration was intended to:
(A) Grant complete independence to towns and villages.
(B) Weaken the nationalist movement by creating local power centers.
(C) Fulfill a long-standing demand of the princely states.
(D) Train Indians in the art of governance and reduce the financial burden on the central exchequer.

**95.** Consider the following statements about economic historians:
1. Dadabhai Naoroji's "Drain Theory" was a foundational critique of British economic policies.
2. R.C. Dutt provided a detailed historical analysis of the negative economic impact of British rule.
3. These Indian economic historians generally praised the British for their economic policies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

NODIA

**96.** Dayanand Saraswati's contribution to social reform was characterized by:
(A) The promotion of inter-faith dialogue and synthesis of all religions.
(B) An appeal to "Go back to the Vedas" and a rejection of later accretions like idolatry and the rigid caste system.
(C) The advocacy for Western education as the only means of salvation.
(D) The formation of a political party to fight for social justice.

**97.** What does the term 'popular newspapers' signify in the context of the development of the Indian press?
(A) Newspapers that were distributed free of cost by the government.
(B) Newspapers that had a wide circulation and influence among the Indian public.
(C) Newspapers that only published entertainment and celebrity news.
(D) Newspapers published in London about Indian affairs.

**98.** The policy of 'Subsidiary Alliance' was a major tool for:
(A) The indirect political and military subordination of Indian states to British power.
(B) The cultural assimilation of Indian states.
(C) The economic development of princely states.
(D) The promotion of free trade between the Company and native kingdoms.

**99.** The British were able to establish their supremacy over other European powers like the French and the Dutch in India primarily due to:
(A) Their religious tolerance and respect for Indian customs.
(B) Their smaller number of trading posts, which were easier to defend.
(C) Superior naval power, financial resources, and the support of the British government.
(D) Their exclusive focus on trade, avoiding political entanglements.

**85.** The British established their political supremacy over the French in India following which series of conflicts?
(A) The Anglo-Maratha Wars
(B) The Anglo-Mysore Wars
(C) The Carnatic Wars
(D) The Anglo-Sikh Wars

**86.** The Marxist interpretation of Indian nationalism would argue that:
(A) An exclusively cultural and spiritual awakening that remained detached from any political or economic objectives.
(B) A movement led by the bourgeoisie to mobilize the masses against colonialism to secure their own class interests.
(C) A perfectly unified national uprising that was entirely devoid of any internal socio-economic class contradictions.
(D) An organic movement initiated and consistently led by the subaltern or non-elite classes from its historical inception.

**87.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The constitutional changes of 1909, 1919, and 1935 failed to satisfy Indian nationalist aspirations.
Reason (R): These changes were characterized by the "concession-counterpoise" strategy, where any grant of power was balanced by safeguards and divisions (like separate electorates) to maintain ultimate British control.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**88.** Which of the following was a key feature of the evolution of the central structure under the East India Company from 1773-1853?
(A) The gradual strengthening of the authority of the Governor-General of Bengal over other presidencies.
(B) Decreasing control of the British Parliament over the Company.
(C) The introduction of universal adult franchise for electing the Governor-General.
(D) The separation of the Company's commercial and political functions from the very beginning in 1773.

**89.** "Changing socio-economic condition of artisans" during British rule most accurately refers to:
(A) A period of unprecedented prosperity due to increased demand from Britain.
(B) Their transformation into a powerful industrial workforce.
(C) Their impoverishment and displacement due to competition from machine-made goods.
(D) Their successful organization into guilds that controlled trade.

**90.** The primary contribution of Madan Mohan Malviya was in the field of:
(A) Founding a major nationalist educational institution (Banaras Hindu University).
(B) Leading the subaltern historical school.
(C) Organizing the trade union movement in Bombay.
(D) Formulating the economic critique of colonialism.

**91.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Historiographical School)
P. Imperialist
Q. Nationalist
R. Marxist
S. Subaltern
List II: (Core Idea)
1. History is driven by class struggle.
2. History should be written from the perspective of the common people.
3. British rule was a modernizing force in a stagnant society.
4. Indian history is a story of the Indian people's struggle for freedom.
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**92.** The concept of 'Nationalism' as it developed in modern India was:

(C) The use of advanced weaponry and artillery.
(D) The promotion of Indian officers to the highest command positions.

**60.** Which social reformer's name is most closely associated with the Aligarh Movement and the promotion of modern, scientific education among Muslims?
(A) Dadabhai Naoroji
(B) Syed Ahmad Khan
(C) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
(D) Badruddin Tyabji

**61.** Arrange the following Acts related to the Indian press in chronological order of their enactment:
1. The Vernacular Press Act
2. The Licensing Act of 1857
3. The Indian Press Act, 1910
4. The Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

**62.** The concept of 'Colonialism' differs from earlier forms of empire-building primarily because it involves:
(A) Only military conquest without any administrative control.
(B) The preservation and promotion of the colonized society's indigenous structures.
(C) A relationship based on equality and mutual respect between the ruler and the ruled.
(D) The complete integration of the colony's economy with that of the metropole for the latter's benefit.

**63.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement about the major historiographical schools of modern Indian history?
(A) The Subaltern school focuses on the history of the elites and national leaders.
(B) The Nationalist school emerged as a reaction to the Imperialist school.
(C) The Marxist school emphasizes class analysis in historical processes.
(D) The Orientalist school involved the study of Eastern societies by Westerners.

**64.** British relations with Hyderabad were primarily solidified through:
(A) A series of prolonged and bloody wars.
(B) The early and willing acceptance of the Subsidiary Alliance by the Nizam.
(C) The annexation of Hyderabad under the Doctrine of Lapse.
(D) A policy of non-interference and mutual respect for sovereignty.

**65.** Which of the following statements about the development of the Judiciary under the Company is correct?
(A) It was based entirely on traditional Indian legal systems.
(B) It involved the establishment of a hierarchy of courts and the codification of laws.
(C) It aimed to establish a uniform legal code applicable to all Indians and Europeans equally from the start.
(D) It was completely independent of the executive branch of the government.

**66.** The concept of "factory law" in the context of British India refers to:
(A) Early legislations that attempted to regulate working hours and conditions, especially for women and children.
(B) Laws governing the establishment of factories.
(C) Laws that gave factory owners complete freedom to set working conditions.
(D) Legislation that banned the formation of trade unions.

**67.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): Swami Vivekananda's message had a profound impact on the youth of India and the nascent nationalist movement.
Reason (R): He advocated for spiritual rejuvenation, self-confidence, and service to humanity, interpreting Hindu scriptures in a modern, rational light.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.

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**100.** Which of the following is not an example of a British law related to women's social status or reform?
(A) Law against Sati
(B) Age of Consent legislation
(C) Widow Remarriage Act
(D) The Rowlatt Act

**101.** The 'Doctrine of Lapse' was controversial because it:
(A) Was applied only to states that were militarily weak.
(B) Ignored the long-standing Indian tradition of adopting an heir.
(C) Required rulers to pay a heavy tribute to the Company.
(D) Forced rulers to convert to Christianity.

**102.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The impact of the British education policy was not uniform and created a divide in Indian society.
Reason (R): It primarily benefited upper-caste, urban males, creating a new English-speaking elite, while mass and female education were largely neglected.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**103.** 'Oral evidence' as a source of history is particularly important for which school of historiography?
(A) Imperialist
(B) Orientalist
(C) Subaltern
(D) Nationalist

**104.** Which of the following best describes the evolution of the police system under the Company and Crown?
(A) It was consistently staffed by Indians at all levels, including the highest ranks.
(B) It was designed primarily for community engagement and social welfare.
(C) It was abolished after 1857 and replaced with military patrols.
(D) It evolved from a locally controlled system to a centrally organized, hierarchical force.

**105.** Consider the following statements:
1. 'Deindustrialization' was a key theme in the works of both Dadabhai Naoroji and R.C. Dutt.
2. The 'Drain Theory' analyzed the economic outflow from India to Britain.
3. The destruction of cottage industries led to overcrowding in the agricultural sector.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**106.** The contributions of Keshav Dhondo Karve are a prime example of:
(A) The economic critique of colonialism.
(B) A social reform movement focused on women's welfare and education.
(C) The development of vernacular journalism.
(D) The organization of peasant movements.

**107.** The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 is an example of:
(A) A measure to promote the Indian press.
(B) A law that applied equally to English and vernacular newspapers.
(C) A law to provide financial subsidies to struggling newspapers.
(D) A discriminatory act aimed at curbing the freedom of the Indian-language press.

NODIA

**108.** The concept of 'Communalism' was strategically used by the British administration as a part of their policy of:
(A) Divide and rule.
(B) Economic development.
(C) Social reform.
(D) Withdrawal from India.

**109.** What was the primary motivation for the British to seek control over the Maratha territories?
(A) The Marathas' rich cultural heritage.
(B) A request from the Mughal emperor to subdue the Marathas.
(C) The desire to control the cotton and opium

List II: (Primary Area of Contribution)
1. Theosophical Society and Home Rule Movement
2. Anti-caste movement and women's education
3. Foundation of Banaras Hindu University
4. 'Drain Theory' and economic critique of colonialism

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**146.** Which of the following is the most appropriate description of 'dyarchy'?
(A) Rule by two kings.
(B) A system of double government where administrative subjects were divided into 'reserved' and 'transferred' lists.
(C) A bicameral legislature.
(D) The division of India into British India and Princely India.

**147.** A historian studying the 'Subaltern' perspective of the Khilafat movement would focus on:
(A) The diplomatic negotiations between British officials and movement leaders.
(B) The role of Mahatma Gandhi in uniting Hindus and Muslims.
(C) How ordinary peasants and workers understood and participated in the movement for their own reasons.
(D) The resolutions passed by the All-India Khilafat Committee.

**148.** The transition from Company to Crown administration in 1858 resulted in:
(A) A fundamental change in the exploitative economic policies.
(B) Increased direct control and accountability of Indian administration to the British Parliament.
(C) The immediate grant of self-government to Indians.
(D) The disbanding of the Indian Civil Service.

**149.** The development of 'labour and trade union movement' was an outcome of:
(A) The decline of cottage industries.
(B) The process of industrialization and the creation of a wage-earning class.
(C) The British government's desire to empower workers.
(D) The social reform movements of the 19th century.

**150.** Consider the following statements about social reformers:
1. Raja Ram Mohan Roy advocated for the synthesis of Western and Eastern education.
2. Savitribai Phule was a pioneer of women's education in India.
3. Swami Vivekananda was primarily an economic historian.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**151.** The various press Acts passed by the British administration generally aimed to:
(A) Encourage freedom of expression.
(B) Provide financial support to newspapers.
(C) Control, censor, and suppress critical nationalist publications.
(D) Regulate the layout and design of newspapers.

**152.** The term 'Orientalism' in historiography refers to a perspective that often:
(A) Portrayed the East as irrational, despotic, and inferior to the West.
(B) Argued for the complete political independence of Eastern nations.
(C) Ignored the study of Eastern languages and cultures entirely.
(D) Was written by Indian scholars for an Indian audience.

**153.** The relationship between the British and the state of Oudh is a classic example of:
(A) Expansion through the use of the Subsidiary Alliance followed by annexation on the pretext of misgovernance.
(B) The successful implementation of the Doctrine of Lapse.
(C) A military alliance based on mutual respect and equality.
(D) The British policy of non-intervention.

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(B) Political party demanding independence.
(C) Religious movement aiming to synthesize all world religions.
(D) Literary society for the promotion of English literature.

**119.** The Licensing Act of 1857 was a direct consequence of the:
(A) Commercial success of vernacular newspapers.
(B) British desire to promote freedom of speech.
(C) Outbreak of the Revolt of 1857 and the perception that the press was fueling the rebellion.
(D) Demands from Indian journalists for government regulation.

**120.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Event/Policy)
P. Permanent Settlement of Bengal
Q. Abolition of Sati
R. Doctrine of Lapse
S. Introduction of Local Self-Government
List II: (Associated British Governor-General/ Viceroy)
1. Lord Dalhousie
2. Lord Ripon
3. Lord Cornwallis
4. Lord William Bentinck
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

**121.** The main difference between the 'Imperialist' and 'Nationalist' schools of historiography lies in their:
(A) Use of archival sources.
(B) Geographical focus.
(C) Interpretation of the nature and impact of British rule.
(D) Language of writing.

**122.** The term 'Khilafat' signifies a movement whose primary objective was:
(A) Pan-Islamic and international.
(B) Local and domestic.
(C) Purely economic.
(D) Focused on social reform.

**123.** The British relationship with the Sikh kingdom of Punjab culminated in:
(A) A permanent and stable Subsidiary Alliance.
(B) The voluntary integration of Punjab into the British Indian Empire.
(C) The establishment of a joint Anglo-Sikh rule in the region.
(D) Two major wars leading to the annexation of Punjab.

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**124.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The development of a modern Civil Service in India was crucial for the consolidation of British rule.
Reason (R): The Civil Service was primarily designed to include Indians at the highest levels of administration to ensure popular support.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**125.** The phenomenon of 'rural indebtedness' was exacerbated by all of the following except:
(A) The rigidity of the British land revenue system.
(B) The role of local moneylenders charging high interest rates.
(C) The forced commercialization of agriculture.
(D) The government's large-scale program of providing easy, low-interest credit to cultivators.

**126.** Swami Vivekananda's contribution to Indian thought included:
(A) A call for rejecting all aspects of Hindu philosophy.
(B) The promotion of a practical, socially-oriented Vedanta and a strong sense of national self-respect.
(C) The argument that India should adopt a Western-style capitalist economy.
(D) The leadership of the Khilafat movement.

**127.** Which of the following best describes the 'status of the Indian press before 1857'?

(D) Is always objective and free from bias.

**183.** The constitutional changes of 1909 are particularly known for:
(A) Introducing provincial autonomy.
(B) Granting voting rights to all adults.
(C) Establishing the system of separate electorates, which sowed the seeds of communal politics.
(D) Abolishing the post of the Viceroy.

**184.** The destruction of cottage industries in India was primarily caused by:
(A) The laziness of Indian artisans.
(B) A lack of demand for Indian goods in India.
(C) The influx of cheap, machine-made goods from Britain and adverse colonial policies.
(D) A series of natural disasters that destroyed workshops.

**185.** The growth of the 'trade union movement' in India was initially dominated by:
(A) Philanthropists and nationalists who sought to improve workers' conditions through legal and moderate means.
(B) Radical communists aiming for revolution.
(C) Factory owners who wanted to create a disciplined workforce.
(D) British officials who wanted to control labor.

**186.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The British were ultimately successful in their rivalry with the French in India.
Reason (R): The British East India Company was a private enterprise with significant government backing and a superior navy, whereas the French company was more of a state department and lacked the same degree of commercial and naval dynamism.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**187.** Which of the following statements about the 'status of women' during the 19th-century social reform movements is correct?
(A) Reformers universally agreed on the methods and extent of change required.
(B) The focus was exclusively on political rights for women.
(C) Issues like Sati, widow remarriage, and education were central to the reformist agenda.
(D) The British government actively opposed all social reforms related to women.

**188.** Which of the following is not a concept related to British imperial policy in India?
(A) Non-Aligned Movement
(B) Subsidiary Alliance
(C) Doctrine of Lapse
(D) Paramountcy

**189.** The 'Orientalist' approach to Indian history and culture, while academic, often served an imperial purpose by:
(A) Arguing that India was ready for self-governance.
(B) Creating a body of knowledge that made India easier to govern and control.
(C) Proving that Indian culture was superior to Western culture.
(D) Encouraging Indians to reject their own past.

**190.** The relationship between the British and the Sikhs deteriorated rapidly after:
(A) The death of Guru Gobind Singh.
(B) The death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the subsequent political instability in the Punjab.
(C) The signing of the Treaty of Amritsar in 1809.
(D) The outbreak of the Revolt of 1857.

**191.** The police system established by the British in India was primarily designed to:
(A) Serve and protect the Indian population as its main priority.
(B) Function as a key instrument of coercion and control for the colonial state.
(C) Be completely independent of the district magistrate.
(D) Consist only of British personnel.

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(A) Evenly distributed across the country.
(B) Mostly owned and controlled by Indians from the beginning.
(C) Concentrated in a few sectors like cotton textiles, jute, and steel, and in specific regions.
(D) Primarily established to compete with British industries.

**138.** The contribution of Savitribai Phule is a significant example of:
(A) The leadership of a women's organization fighting for political rights.
(B) A pioneering effort in the field of education for women and lower castes.
(C) The development of economic critique against British rule.
(D) The promotion of Western culture among Indian women.

**139.** The term 'Colonialism' as an idea implies:
(A) A mutually beneficial relationship between two countries.
(B) The subjugation of one people by another and the structuring of the colony's economy and society to serve the interests of the metropole.
(C) A temporary military occupation.
(D) A form of cultural exchange on an equal footing.

**140.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Vernacular Press Act was repealed.
Reason (R): It was seen as a highly popular and effective law by both Indians and a section of the British administration.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**141.** The establishment of the army under the Company and Crown was characterized by all of the following except:
(A) A hierarchical structure with British officers in command.
(B) The use of Indian sepoys as the main fighting force.
(C) The policy of maintaining parity in numbers between Indian and European troops after 1857.
(D) The encouragement of nationalist sentiments among the Indian sepoys.

NODIA

**142.** The process of 'commercialization of agriculture' had a negative impact on the peasantry because:
(A) It led to a massive increase in the production of food grains for local consumption.
(B) It connected them to a volatile global market, making them vulnerable to price crashes and debt.
(C) It freed them from the clutches of moneylenders.
(D) The profits from cash crops were equally distributed by the government.

**143.** Syed Ahmad Khan's primary objective was to:
(A) Organize a political party to oppose the British.
(B) Promote social and educational modernization among Indian Muslims to align them with the new realities of British rule.
(C) Launch a movement for the revival of the Mughal empire.
(D) Advocate for a return to puritanical Islam, rejecting all modern education.

**144.** The British government's policy towards 'famines and epidemics' was often criticized for:
(A) Its excessive spending on relief measures.
(B) Its adherence to laissez-faire principles, which delayed and limited effective intervention.
(C) Its policy of banning all food exports during famines.
(D) Its success in completely preventing any loss of life.

**145.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Reformer/Leader)
P. Jyotiba Phule
Q. Dadabhai Naoroji
R. Annie Besant
S. M. M. Malviya

(A) The 1857 Act was stricter than the 1878 Act.
(B) The 1857 Act applied to all press, while the 1878 Act specifically targeted the vernacular press.
(C) The 1878 Act was a pre-censorship act, while the 1857 Act was not.
(D) The 1857 Act was never implemented, while the 1878 Act was.

**164.** The term 'Paramountcy' was used by the British to:
(A) Justify their intervention in the affairs of princely states.
(B) Grant complete sovereignty to the princely states.
(C) Establish trade relations with other European powers.
(D) Formulate their education policy.

**165.** The conflict between the British and the Marathas was for the control of:
(A) The spice trade in the south.
(B) The fertile plains of Bengal.
(C) The political vacuum created by the decline of the Mughal Empire in western and central India.
(D) The sea routes to China.

**166.** A major feature of the constitutional change under the Government of India Act, 1919 was:
(A) The introduction of universal adult suffrage.
(B) The introduction of 'dyarchy' in the provincial governments.
(C) The granting of full independence to India.
(D) The complete separation of executive and legislative powers.

**167.** 'Factory law' and the 'labour and trade union movement' are historically linked because:
(A) The trade union movement opposed all forms of factory law.
(B) The inadequate and poorly implemented factory laws spurred workers to organize into unions to demand better conditions.
(C) The British government created trade unions to enforce factory laws.
(D) Factory laws made trade unions illegal.

**168.** The contribution of Annie Besant to Indian nationalism was significant because she:
(A) Authored the 'Drain Theory'.
(B) Founded the Arya Samaj.
(C) Popularized the demand for 'Home Rule' and bridged the gap between moderates and extremists.
(D) Pioneered women's education in Maharashtra.

**169.** Which of the following is the best example of 'biographies and memoirs' as a historical source?
(A) The text of the Regulating Act of 1773.
(B) An editorial in a newspaper from 1890.
(C) Jawaharlal Nehru's 'An Autobiography'.
(D) The census report of 1901.

**170.** Which of the following statements about the 'Drain Theory' is incorrect?
(A) It was systematically articulated by Dadabhai Naoroji.
(B) It was endorsed and accepted by the British government.
(C) It argued that wealth was flowing from India to Britain.
(D) It was a key part of the Nationalist critique of British rule.

**171.** The 'forward policy' was an expression of British imperial concerns regarding the perceived threat from:
(A) Russia
(B) France
(C) China
(D) The United States

**172.** The ultimate outcome of the British wars with Mysore was:
(A) The establishment of a strong, independent Mysore state.
(B) The death of Tipu Sultan and the imposition of a subsidiary alliance on the restored Wodeyar dynasty.
(C) The defeat of the British and their expulsion from southern India.
(D) The annexation of Mysore under the Doctrine of Lapse.

**173.** The 'Civil Service' under the Crown, often called the 'Steel Frame' of the Raj, was characterized by:
(A) The exclusion of Indians from higher posts.
(B) Its primary role in social welfare activities.
(C) Its accountability to the Indian public.

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**154.** The evolution of the judiciary under the Company rule led to:
(A) The complete replacement of Indian laws with British laws.
(B) The establishment of a hierarchy of civil and criminal courts.
(C) The appointment of Indian judges to the highest judicial positions.
(D) The abolition of all forms of legal documentation.

**155.** Which of the following was not a feature of the economic history of British India?
(A) Deindustrialization
(B) Rural indebtedness
(C) A state-led policy of rapid and balanced industrial growth
(D) Commercialization of agriculture

**156.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The social reform movements of the 19th century played a crucial role in the regeneration of Indian society.
Reason (R): Leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dayanand Saraswati, and Jyotiba Phule challenged existing social evils and advocated for modernization, education, and social equality.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**157.** The 'status of women' became a major issue for social reformers, who campaigned against practices like:
(A) Women's education.
(B) The right to property for women.
(C) Sati, child marriage, and enforced widowhood.
(D) The formation of women's organizations.

**158.** The Portuguese, Dutch, French, and British were all drawn to India in the 17th and 18th centuries primarily by:
(A) The opportunities for lucrative trade.
(B) The prospect of religious conversion.
(C) The desire to escape political turmoil in Europe.
(D) The invitation of the Mughal emperors.

**159.** The 'Subaltern' school of historiography challenges the 'Nationalist' school by arguing that:
(A) The nationalist movement was always non-violent.
(B) The history of the freedom struggle is incomplete without considering the contributions and consciousness of the masses.
(C) British rule was entirely beneficial for India.
(D) Economic factors played no role in modern Indian history.

**160.** The establishment of Local Self-Government by the British Crown was primarily motivated by:
(A) A deep commitment to democratic principles.
(B) Administrative and financial expediency.
(C) Pressure from the Indian National Congress.
(D) The desire to dismantle the central government.

**161.** The concept of 'deindustrialization' is directly linked to the 'destruction of cottage industries, trades and handicrafts' because:
(A) The rise of cottage industries caused the decline of modern factories.
(B) The decline of traditional Indian manufacturing in the face of competition from British goods is the essence of deindustrialization.
(C) British policy actively promoted cottage industries over modern ones.
(D) Deindustrialization refers to the shift of workers from agriculture to industry.

**162.** Raja Ram Mohan Roy is often called the 'Father of Modern India' because he:
(A) Led a military revolt against the British.
(B) Initiated reforms in Hindu society and advocated for a modern, rational approach to social and religious questions.
(C) Formulated the 'Drain Theory'.
(D) Founded the Indian National Congress.

**163.** A key difference between the Licensing Act of 1857 and the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was:

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(A) It was non-existent.
(B) It was entirely government-controlled and published only official news.
(C) It was a developing entity with both English and vernacular papers, subject to government regulation.
(D) It was completely free from any form of censorship or licensing.

**128.** The concept of 'Paramountcy' implied that:
(A) Princely states were equal partners with the British Crown.
(B) The British Crown's authority was superior to that of the princely states, even in their internal affairs if necessary.
(C) Princely states had the right to secede from the Indian Empire.
(D) The East India Company and the princely states had a joint rule over India.

**129.** Consider the following statements about sources for modern Indian history:
1. Archival materials are official records that provide administrative history.
2. Oral evidence helps in understanding the perspectives of those who did not leave written records.
3. Creative literature can provide insights into the social and cultural ethos of a period.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**130.** The establishment and expansion of British rule in India was facilitated by:
(A) The complete unity and cooperation among Indian powers.
(B) The political fragmentation of India and rivalries among native powers.
(C) The British policy of non-interference in Indian political affairs.
(D) The overwhelming popular support for British rule from the Indian masses.

**131.** Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Dyarchy - Dual government in provinces
(B) Forward Policy - North-West Frontier
(C) Orientalism - Justification for immediate annexation
(D) Colonialism - Economic and political control by a foreign power

**132.** The 'Drain Theory' of Dadabhai Naoroji argued that:
(A) India's poverty was due to its traditional social customs.
(B) Britain was enriching itself by draining India's resources and wealth.
(C) The recurring famines were purely natural calamities.
(D) The British monetary policy was beneficial for Indian artisans.

**133.** Women's organizations in modern India emerged primarily to:
(A) Support British administrative policies.
(B) Address issues of women's education, social status, and legal rights.
(C) Promote the study of ancient Indian history.
(D) Compete with the Indian National Congress for political power.

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**134.** Which of the following acts is an example of legislation aimed at controlling the press?
(A) The Charter Act of 1853
(B) The Government of India Act 1919
(C) The Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931
(D) The Local Self-Government Act, 1882

**135.** The main objective of the Marxist school of historiography is to analyze history in terms of:
(A) The actions of great national leaders.
(B) The cultural achievements of a civilization.
(C) The struggle between different economic classes.
(D) The justification of colonial rule.

**136.** The British relationship with Mysore under Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan is best described as:
(A) One of peaceful coexistence.
(B) A consistent alliance against the Marathas.
(C) A period of intense rivalry and four major wars.
(D) The immediate acceptance of a Subsidiary Alliance by Mysore.

**137.** The 'major modern industries' that grew during the British period were:

(D) Its inefficiency and corruption.

**174.** The changing socio-economic condition of artisans during British rule led to:
(A) An increase in their political power.
(B) A process of urban-to-rural migration.
(C) Their displacement and loss of livelihood, a process known as pauperization.
(D) The modernization of their craft skills with British help.

**175.** The Theosophical Society, with which Annie Besant was associated, helped to:
(A) Stimulate a sense of pride in Indian culture and philosophy.
(B) Organize peasant rebellions.
(C) Promote the adoption of Western lifestyles.
(D) Demand the immediate overthrow of British rule.

**176.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Act/Policy)
P. Vernacular Press Act, 1878
Q. Government of India Act, 1919
R. Subsidiary Alliance
S. Doctrine of Lapse
List II: (Primary Consequence/Feature)
1. Loss of sovereignty for Indian states in defense and foreign policy
2. Annexation of states like Satara, Nagpur, and Jhansi
3. Censorship of Indian language newspapers
4. Introduction of Dyarchy in provinces
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**177.** The 'Khilafat' issue became a major national movement in India when:
(A) It was supported exclusively by Muslim leaders.
(B) Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress linked it with the Non-Cooperation Movement.
(C) The British government agreed to all its demands.
(D) The Sultan of Turkey regained his powers.

**178.** The primary focus of a historian using the 'Nationalist' historiographical approach would be:
(A) The internal contradictions and class conflicts within Indian society.
(B) The benefits and modernizing influence of British rule.
(C) The emergence of a national consciousness and the unified struggle against colonial oppression.
(D) The perspectives of marginalized peasant and tribal groups.

**179.** The evolution of the provincial structure under the East India Company was driven by the need to:
(A) Effectively administer newly conquered territories and collect revenue.
(B) Create autonomous provinces.
(C) Prepare Indians for self-rule.
(D) Comply with demands from Indian rulers.

**180.** The economic policies of the British, such as land settlements and commercialization of agriculture, collectively led to:
(A) The uniform prosperity of the Indian peasantry.
(B) The stagnation of the agrarian economy and increased poverty.
(C) A decline in the export of raw materials from India.
(D) The elimination of famines and rural debt.

**181.** The work of Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule in Maharashtra is significant because it represents:
(A) A movement led by the upper castes to reform their own practices.
(B) A radical challenge to caste and gender hierarchy from within the lower castes.
(C) A purely political movement to gain power.
(D) A movement to promote traditional, scripture-based education.

**182.** 'Creative literature' of the colonial period is a useful historical source because it:
(A) Provides accurate statistical data.
(B) Reflects the subjective experiences, social critiques, and cultural shifts of the time.
(C) Gives the official government position on various issues.

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trade routes and consolidate their power in western and central India.
(D) The need to form a strong alliance against the French.

**110.** The Government of India Act, 1935, a key constitutional change, proposed:
(A) An All-India Federation and provincial autonomy.
(B) The immediate grant of Dominion Status to India.
(C) The introduction of dyarchy at the central level.
(D) The abolition of separate electorates.

**111.** The term 'monetary policy' in the context of British India's economic history relates to:
(A) The system of land revenue collection.
(B) The laws governing the inheritance of money and property.
(C) The funding of social reform movements by the government.
(D) The management of currency, exchange rates, and credit by the colonial government.

**112.** The most significant long-term impact of the British education policy was:
(A) The comprehensive and permanent eradication of all traditional Indian pedagogical and learning systems.
(B) The introduction of Western democratic and nationalist ideals which eventually challenged colonial authority.
(C) The successful creation of a fully integrated and literate populace with no underlying social or class divisions.
(D) The historical achievement of total literacy across all sections of the Indian population by the year 1947.

**113.** Arrange the following chronologically based on their establishment or occurrence:
1. The First Anglo-Mysore War
2. The Annexation of Oudh
3. The establishment of the first French factory at Surat
4. The Battle of Plassey

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(A) 3, 4, 1, 2
(B) 4, 3, 2, 1
(C) 3, 1, 4, 2
(D) 1, 4, 3, 2

**114.** The 'forward policy' is most closely associated with British relations with:
(A) Bengal
(B) Mysore
(C) The Marathas
(D) The North-West Frontier and Afghanistan

**115.** A historian using 'creative literature and painting' to study the colonial period would be most interested in:
(A) The exact number of soldiers who died in a battle.
(B) The official British justification for a new law.
(C) The perceptions, attitudes, and social realities of the time as depicted by artists and writers.
(D) The precise economic data on trade and commerce.

**116.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the constitutional changes from 1909 to 1935?
(A) The Act of 1909 introduced separate electorates for Muslims.
(B) These Acts were designed to transfer all power to Indians immediately.
(C) The Act of 1919 introduced dyarchy in the provinces.
(D) The Act of 1935 proposed provincial autonomy.

**117.** The destruction of trades and handicrafts directly impacted the "socio-economic condition of artisans" by:
(A) Making them wealthy entrepreneurs.
(B) Forcing them into agriculture or low-wage labor, leading to poverty.
(C) Helping them form powerful trade unions to demand rights.
(D) Encouraging them to migrate to Britain for better opportunities.

**118.** The Arya Samaj, founded by Dayanand Saraswati, can be best described as a:
(A) Social reform movement aimed at reforming Hindu society based on the authority of the Vedas.

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**192.** Consider the following statements related to the economic impact of British rule:
1. Dadabhai Naoroji's Drain Theory highlighted the transfer of wealth from India.
2. The commercialization of agriculture always benefited the small peasant.
3. Deindustrialization led to the decline of traditional Indian manufacturing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**193.** Madan Mohan Malviya's name is intrinsically linked to the founding of which major institution?
(A) The Banaras Hindu University
(B) The Aligarh Muslim University
(C) The Deccan Education Society
(D) The Theosophical Society

**194.** The Vernacular Press Act (1878) and other similar press Acts are evidence of the British government's:
(A) Commitment to a free and fair press.
(B) Fear of the growing influence of nationalist ideas spread through the Indian press.
(C) Inability to understand Indian languages.
(D) Policy to provide financial aid to all newspapers.

**195.** The concept of 'Nationalism' in India was a product of:
(A) The common experience of colonial subjugation and the spread of modern ideas.
(B) The continuation of ancient political unity.
(C) A British policy to encourage national identity.
(D) The efforts of princely states to unite against the Mughals.

**196.** The Marxist historiography views the Indian nationalist movement as:
(A) A struggle led by the bourgeoisie to serve its own class interests.
(B) A monolithic movement with no internal contradictions.
(C) A purely religious revivalist movement.
(D) A successful peasant revolution.

**197.** The expansion of British rule in Bengal was a gradual process that started with:
(A) Obtaining trading rights and establishing factories.
(B) The Battle of Buxar.
(C) The annexation of Oudh.
(D) The First Anglo-Maratha War.

**198.** The term 'Paramountcy' of the British Crown meant that:
(A) The British were the ultimate and supreme power in India, and the states were subordinate.
(B) Indian princely states were completely sovereign.
(C) The states had to pay a fixed annual tribute but were otherwise free.
(D) The states could form their own foreign policy.

**199.** The economic critique of colonialism, as formulated by Dadabhai Naoroji and R.C. Dutt, argued that India's poverty was:
(A) A result of its climate and geography.
(B) Caused by overpopulation.
(C) A man-made phenomenon resulting from colonial policies.
(D) A historical problem that predated British rule.

**200.** Keshav Dhondo Karve dedicated his life to the cause of:
(A) The labour movement.
(B) The economic development of India.
(C) The promotion of Western literature.
(D) Women's education and the upliftment of widows.

**201.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Concept/Policy)
P. Communalism
Q. Dyarchy
R. Khilafat
S. Orientalism
List II: (Brief Description)
1. Study of Eastern cultures by Western scholars.
2. Pan-Islamic movement concerning the

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a license from the government, which could be revoked at any time.
(C) It fixed the price of all newspapers.
(D) It required all editors to be of British origin.

**221.** The concept of 'Communalism' as an ideology posits that:
(A) All communities in a country share common social, economic, and political interests.
(B) People who follow the same religion have secular interests that are different and often opposed to those of people following other religions.
(C) A nation should be governed by religious leaders.
(D) Economic development should be the only goal of the state.

**222.** The primary source materials like 'biographies and memoirs' are valuable but must be used with caution because they:
(A) Are always written in a foreign language.
(B) Are often subjective and shaped by the author's personal biases and memory.
(C) Are too expensive to access.
(D) Contain no factual information.

**223.** The British relationship with the state of Hyderabad is a classic example of:
(A) Annexation through warfare.
(B) The successful and long-term application of the Subsidiary Alliance.
(C) Annexation through the Doctrine of Lapse.
(D) A relationship of equals.

**224.** The establishment of the Civil Service under British rule aimed to create:
(A) A body of administrators loyal to the Indian people.
(B) An efficient, hierarchical bureaucracy to run the administration and secure British interests.
(C) A temporary administrative structure.
(D) A service open to all Indians at all levels from its inception.

**225.** The 'Drain Theory', as propounded by Dadabhai Naoroji, was a central component of the:
(A) Imperialist justification of British rule.
(B) Marxist critique of capitalism.
(C) Nationalist economic critique of colonialism.
(D) Orientalist understanding of India.

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**226.** The contribution of the Theosophical Society and Annie Besant to the Indian awakening was primarily in the:
(A) Economic sphere.
(B) Military sphere.
(C) Cultural and religious sphere, by fostering pride in India's past.
(D) Legal sphere.

**227.** The development of 'popular newspapers' was significant because they:
(A) Became vehicles for the dissemination of nationalist ideas and mobilization of public opinion.
(B) Were always supportive of British government policies.
(C) Focused only on entertainment and avoided political content.
(D) Were circulated only among British officials.

**228.** The 'Forward Policy' of the British in India was primarily directed towards securing the borders with:
(A) Burma
(B) Afghanistan
(C) Nepal
(D) China

**229.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (School of Historiography)
P. Imperialist
Q. Nationalist
R. Marxist
S. Subaltern
List II: (Main Proponent/Idea)
1. R.C. Dutt
2. Ranajit Guha
3. Vincent Smith
4. R.P. Dutt
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**230.** The 'destruction of cottage industries' is a reference to the:

1. Archival materials like government reports.
2. Biographies and memoirs of political leaders.
3. Oral evidence from common people.

Which of these sources are relevant for historical research?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**211.** The constitutional changes of 1919, which introduced dyarchy, were a result of the:
(A) Lucknow Pact between Congress and Muslim League.
(B) Recommendations of the Simon Commission.
(C) Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.
(D) Cripps Mission proposals.

**212.** The destruction of handicrafts and the phenomenon of 'deindustrialization' led to:
(A) Increased pressure on land and agriculture as the primary source of livelihood.
(B) Increased prosperity in rural India.
(C) The rapid growth of alternative employment in modern industries.
(D) A mass migration of Indian artisans to Britain.

**213.** The contribution of Dayanand Saraswati and the Arya Samaj was significant in the realm of:
(A) Economic critique of British rule.
(B) Religious and social reform within Hinduism.
(C) The promotion of Western liberal arts.
(D) The organization of industrial labor.

**214.** The term 'Colonialism' fundamentally describes a relationship of:
(A) Political and economic domination and exploitation.
(B) Equality and partnership.
(C) Cultural exchange between equals.
(D) Temporary military alliance.

**215.** The British were able to defeat other European rivals like the Portuguese and the French in India due to:
(A) Superior naval strength, better financial organization, and state support.
(B) Their greater number of soldiers.
(C) The help they received from all Indian rulers.
(D) Their policy of avoiding conflicts and focusing only on trade.

**216.** The administration of the Judiciary under the Crown saw:
(A) The complete abolition of the laws passed under the Company.
(B) The establishment of High Courts in the provinces.
(C) The appointment of an Indian as the Chief Justice of India.
(D) The dismantling of the entire court system.

**217.** The monetary policy of the colonial government was often criticized by nationalists for:
(A) Keeping the Indian rupee too strong, which benefited British importers.
(B) Manipulating exchange rates and council bills to facilitate the 'Drain of Wealth'.
(C) Printing too much money, causing hyperinflation.
(D) Providing too much cheap credit to Indian industries.

**218.** The impact of the British education policy was the creation of a class of Indians who:
(A) Remained loyal to traditional systems of learning.
(B) Absorbed Western ideas and then used them to articulate nationalist demands.
(C) Were employed in high-level policy-making roles in the British administration.
(D) Focused entirely on agricultural development.

**219.** Which of the following British laws related to women was a key achievement of the social reform movements?
(A) The Vernacular Press Act
(B) The Arms Act
(C) The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856
(D) The Rowlatt Act

**220.** The 'Licensing Act of 1857' imposed which of the following restrictions?
(A) It banned the publication of newspapers in Indian languages.
(B) It made it mandatory for any press to obtain

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ideological slant.

**258.** The 'Doctrine of Lapse' was a policy of:
(A) Annexation
(B) Trade
(C) Social Reform
(D) Education

**259.** The primary reason for the economic 'Drain' as described by Dadabhai Naoroji was:
(A) The salaries and profits of British officials and merchants, and other expenses of the colonial administration being sent to Britain.
(B) Indian merchants sending their profits abroad.
(C) The high cost of importing raw materials into India.
(D) India's unfavorable balance of trade with China.

**260.** Which social reformer established a series of educational institutions for girls, culminating in the first women's university in India?
(A) Savitribai Phule
(B) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(C) Keshav Dhondo Karve
(D) Syed Ahmad Khan

**261.** The various press Acts passed by the British are an indicator of the:
(A) Government's support for a free press.
(B) The growing power and influence of the nationalist press.
(C) The decline in readership of newspapers.
(D) The economic failure of the newspaper industry.

**262.** The concept of 'Colonialism' is best exemplified by:
(A) A country investing in another country's infrastructure for mutual benefit.
(B) A politically powerful country subordinating another country's economy and society for its own enrichment.
(C) A cultural exchange program between two nations.
(D) A military alliance for mutual defense.

**263.** A historian analyzing the archival materials related to the British administration would be examining:
(A) Folk songs and oral traditions.
(B) Government files, official correspondence, and gazettes.
(C) Personal diaries of common farmers.
(D) Novels written during the period.

**264.** The British victory over the French in the Carnatic Wars was crucial because it:
(A) Gave them control over Bengal.
(B) Led to the defeat of the Marathas.
(C) Removed their main European rival for the control of India.
(D) Gave them access to the spice trade.

**265.** Which of the following was not a major land settlement system introduced by the British?
(A) Permanent Settlement
(B) Ryotwari Settlement
(C) Mahalwari Settlement
(D) Inamdar Settlement

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**266.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The social reform movements of the 19th century were often limited to the urban, educated, middle and upper classes.
Reason (R): The reformers' message, often articulated through print and modern associations, had limited reach in the vast rural hinterland where traditional norms held strong sway.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**267.** The 'labour and trade union movement' in its early phase was characterized by:
(A) A demand for the overthrow of the state.
(B) A focus on immediate economic grievances like wages and working hours.
(C) The leadership of the working class itself.
(D) Complete government support and patronage.

(A) Rise of Indian-owned modern factories.
(B) Decline of traditional Indian manufacturing due to colonial policies and competition.
(C) Physical destruction of workshops during wars.
(D) Voluntary closure of industries by artisans.

**231.** The social reform movements of the 19th century, involving figures like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jyotiba Phule, indicate that:
(A) Indian society was perfect and had no social evils.
(B) There was an internal critique and a drive for modernization within Indian society itself.
(C) All Indians were opposed to any form of social change.
(D) Social reform was solely an initiative of the British government.

**232.** The term 'dyarchy', implemented by the Act of 1919, failed because:
(A) Indian ministers were granted absolute control over the most critical departments, including internal finance and police.
(B) The administrative division of subjects was impractical as ministers lacked control over finances and the civil service.
(C) The British provincial governors maintained a policy of absolute refusal to cooperate with any appointed Indian ministers.
(D) The Indian National Congress provided total institutional support for the scheme, which led to its widespread unpopularity.

**233.** The primary reason for the British-Sikh wars was:
(A) Religious animosity.
(B) The British ambition to annex the strategic and fertile region of Punjab.
(C) A Sikh invasion of British territory.
(D) A dispute over trade routes to Tibet.

**234.** The 'nature of factory law' in colonial India reveals that such laws were:
(A) Comprehensive and always strictly enforced to protect all workers.
(B) Enacted primarily to make Indian industries less competitive against British ones.
(C) Often hesitant, limited in scope, and enacted under pressure from various groups.
(D) Designed to give workers the right to strike and full control over management.

**235.** The women's organizations that emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were important because they:
(A) Functioned as social clubs for elite women.
(B) Provided a platform for women to articulate their own demands for social and political rights.
(C) Were created and controlled by the British government.
(D) Exclusively focused on religious activities.

**236.** The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was pejoratively called the "Gagging Act" because it:
(A) Provided financial aid to the press.
(B) Aimed to silence or "gag" criticism of the government in the Indian language press.
(C) Forced newspapers to publish government circulars.
(D) Regulated the price of newsprint.

**237.** The concept of 'Paramountcy' was an ambiguous doctrine that essentially meant:
(A) The princely states were paramount.
(B) British authority was paramount when it chose to be, allowing it to interfere in states' affairs at will.
(C) All powers were equally divided between the states and the Crown.
(D) The Judiciary was the paramount authority in India.

**238.** A historian of the 'Imperialist' school would most likely interpret the annexation of Indian states as:
(A) An act of unjust aggression.
(B) A necessary step to bring order, good governance, and modernization to a chaotic region.
(C) An outcome of class conflict.
(D) The result of subaltern resistance.

NODIA

**239.** The evolution of the army under the Crown after 1857 included the policy of:
(A) Increasing the proportion of Indian soldiers to British soldiers.
(B) Recruiting soldiers from a wider variety of social groups to break caste solidarity.
(C) Organizing regiments based on the concept

Turkish Caliph.
3. Division of provincial subjects into Reserved and Transferred.
4. Ideology based on antagonistic religious identities.

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**202.** The status of the Indian press before 1857 can be characterized as:
(A) Non-existent and irrelevant.
(B) Thriving with complete freedom and no government interference.
(C) Nascent, but growing, with periodic government attempts at regulation.
(D) Exclusively in English and run by British interests.

**203.** The 'Subaltern' school of historiography primarily seeks to:
(A) Write history from the perspective of the masses and marginalized groups.
(B) Glorify the achievements of British rule.
(C) Focus exclusively on the economic policies of the colonial state.
(D) Justify the actions of nationalist leaders.

**204.** The policy of 'Subsidiary Alliance' was a diplomatic strategy that resulted in:
(A) Indian states becoming more powerful militarily.
(B) The loss of sovereignty for the participating Indian state.
(C) The British paying tribute to Indian rulers.
(D) The formation of a united front of Indian states against the British.

**205.** The evolution of the central and provincial administrative structure under the East India Company (1773-1853) was a process of:
(A) Increasing decentralization and autonomy for local rulers.
(B) Gradual consolidation and centralization of British authority.
(C) The transfer of power to elected Indian representatives.
(D) The dismantling of the Company's administrative machinery.

**206.** The term 'rural indebtedness' in the context of British India refers to the:
(A) Wealth accumulated by farmers due to good harvests.
(B) System of government loans for agricultural development.
(C) Cycle of debt that peasants were trapped in with moneylenders and the state.
(D) Philanthropic activity of landlords forgiving peasant debts.

**207.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule were pioneers of social reform in 19th-century Maharashtra.
Reason (R): They focused on challenging the Brahmanical caste system and championed the cause of education for women and the so-called 'lower castes'.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**208.** The main purpose of the various press Acts enacted by the British, such as the Vernacular Press Act, was to:
(A) Suppress dissent and nationalist criticism of colonial rule.
(B) Provide a legal framework for journalists' rights.
(C) Ensure fair competition among different newspapers.
(D) Reduce the cost of newspapers for the public.

**209.** The 'Doctrine of Lapse' is most closely associated with the expansionist policies of which Governor-General?
(A) Lord Wellesley
(B) Lord William Bentinck
(C) Lord Dalhousie
(D) Lord Ripon

**210.** Consider the following sources for writing modern Indian history:

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**248.** The economic historian R.C. Dutt, in his work, systematically documented the:
(A) Benefits of British rule for Indian agriculture.
(B) Negative impact of British land revenue policies and deindustrialization on the Indian economy.
(C) Rise of the Indian working class.
(D) Success of the British monetary policy.

**249.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement about the impact of British education policy?
(A) It created a new class of English-educated Indians.
(B) It fostered the ideals of democracy and nationalism.
(C) It led to the complete neglect of modern scientific education.
(D) Its benefits were largely confined to the urban upper and middle classes.

**250.** 'Popular newspapers' during the freedom struggle served as:
(A) An instrument of British propaganda.
(B) A tool for political education, mobilization, and critique of colonial rule.
(C) A source of entertainment with no political significance.
(D) A business that was always profitable.

**251.** The 'Khilafat' movement lost its relevance and collapsed when:
(A) The British government accepted all its demands.
(B) Mahatma Gandhi withdrew his support.
(C) The people of Turkey themselves, under Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, abolished the Caliphate.
(D) The Muslim League withdrew from the movement.

**252.** The 'Nationalist' historians of modern India are often credited with:
(A) Justifying colonial rule.
(B) Creating an inspiring narrative of the freedom struggle that fostered national pride.
(C) Focusing on the history of the marginalized.
(D) Analyzing history through the lens of class conflict.

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**253.** The relationship between the British and the Marathas in the early 19th century concluded with:
(A) A powerful Anglo-Maratha alliance.
(B) The complete dismantling of the Maratha confederacy and the establishment of British supremacy.
(C) The retreat of the British from western India.
(D) The voluntary acceptance of British culture by the Marathas.

**254.** The system of 'Local Self-Government' introduced under the Crown was:
(A) A system of complete democracy at the local level.
(B) A limited grant of power to local bodies with official control and limited franchise.
(C) A system where local bodies were controlled by the army.
(D) A failure because no Indians participated in it.

**255.** The condition of artisans worsened during British rule due to:
(A) Their inability to adapt to new designs.
(B) The loss of patronage from native courts and competition from machine-made goods.
(C) High taxes imposed on their tools.
(D) The prohibition of all handicraft production by law.

**256.** Swami Vivekananda's message to the Indian youth was one of:
(A) Rejecting the world and pursuing solitary meditation.
(B) Strength, self-confidence, and service to the nation.
(C) Uncritical adoption of Western ways.
(D) Forming a political party to contest elections.

**257.** 'Creative literature and painting' are important sources for historians because they:
(A) Provides a factual, chronological account of events.
(B) Reveal the mindsets, values, and social tensions of the period that official documents may not.
(C) Are the only reliable sources for economic data.
(D) Are always objective and without any

improved significantly.
(D) There was a mass movement of population from rural to urban areas.

**279.** The efforts of Jyotiba Phule were primarily directed towards:
(A) The economic critique of British policies.
(B) The social emancipation of lower castes and women through education.
(C) The revival of Vedic Hinduism.
(D) The promotion of English language and culture.

**280.** The development of 'popular newspapers' in the late 19th and early 20th centuries played a crucial role in:
(A) Strengthening the British administration.
(B) Fostering a national consciousness and public opinion.
(C) Discouraging political activity among Indians.
(D) Promoting regionalism over nationalism.

**281.** The policy of 'Subsidiary Alliance' required the Indian ruler to:
(A) Disband their army and accept a British contingent in their territory.
(B) Pay a large annual tribute in exchange for military autonomy.
(C) Cede their entire territory to the British.
(D) Form an alliance with the French against the British.

**282.** The 'Nationalist' interpretation of modern Indian history emphasizes:
(A) The 'civilizing mission' of the British.
(B) The story of India's struggle for independence from colonial rule.
(C) The class struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.
(D) The history of non-elite, subaltern groups.

**283.** The constitutional change embodied in the Government of India Act of 1935 provided for:
(A) Immediate independence.
(B) Dyarchy at the Centre and autonomy for the provinces.
(C) The abolition of the office of the Viceroy.
(D) Universal adult franchise without any qualifications.

**284.** 'Rural indebtedness' became a widespread phenomenon under British rule due to a combination of:
(A) Low land revenue demand and high crop prices.
(B) High land revenue demand, the need for cash to pay it, and the trap of moneylenders.
(C) Government programs for debt relief.
(D) The prosperity of cottage industries reducing the burden on land.

**285.** Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Deindustrialization
Q. Commercialization
R. Drain of Wealth
S. Paramountcy
List II: (Meaning in Context)
1. Transfer of resources from India to Britain.
2. Assertion of ultimate British sovereignty over princely states.
3. Shift in agriculture from subsistence to market crops.
4. Decline of traditional industries.
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3

**286.** The status of women in the 19th century became a subject of reform, with Indian reformers challenging all of the following except:
(A) Sati
(B) Enforced widowhood
(C) The right of women to education
(D) Child marriage

**287.** Which of the following is an incorrect pair?
(A) Raja Ram Mohan Roy - Brahmo Samaj
(B) Dayanand Saraswati - Arya Samaj
(C) Annie Besant - Aligarh Movement
(D) Jyotiba Phule - Satyasodhak Samaj

**288.** The main target of the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was:
(A) The English-language press in India.
(B) Newspapers and journals published in Indian languages.
(C) All printing presses, including those

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**268.** Which of the following is the best example of a British Law relates to women that was influenced by social reformers?
(A) The Age of Consent Act, 1891
(B) The Ilbert Bill, 1883
(C) The Indian Councils Act, 1909
(D) The Defence of India Act, 1915

**269.** The term 'Orientalism' can be defined as:
(A) A political movement for the liberation of Eastern countries.
(B) The Western academic study of the East, which often constructed a romanticized or stereotyped image of Eastern societies.
(C) The Eastern study of Western societies.
(D) A native Indian school of historiography.

**270.** The establishment of the British Indian Army after the Revolt of 1857 saw a significant reorganization aimed at:
(A) Promoting Indian officers to the highest ranks.
(B) Preventing a future large-scale uprising by carefully balancing troop compositions and controlling key assets.
(C) Reducing the size of the army to save costs.
(D) Training the army for democratic governance.

**271.** Consider the following statements regarding the economic policies of the British:
1. The commercialization of agriculture was primarily intended to serve British industrial needs.
2. The destruction of cottage industries led to increased pressure on agricultural land.
3. The monetary policy of the government was designed to facilitate the drain of wealth.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**272.** The contribution of Raja Ram Mohan Roy to the 'status of women' is best exemplified by his campaign for:
(A) The promotion of female education.
(B) The right of women to vote.
(C) The abolition of Sati.
(D) The entry of women into the civil service.

**273.** The Licensing Act of 1857 and the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 were both measures designed to:
(A) Promote journalism in India.
(B) Control and restrict the freedom of the press.
(C) Provide financial aid to newspapers.
(D) Regulate the working hours of journalists.

**274.** The concept of 'Dyarchy' is associated with which set of constitutional reforms?
(A) Morley-Minto Reforms (1909)
(B) Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919)
(C) Simon Commission Report (1930)
(D) Government of India Act (1935)

**275.** The 'Subaltern' school of historiography emerged as a critique of:
(A) The overemphasis on the role of elite leaders in nationalist and Marxist histories.
(B) The use of archival sources in historical writing.
(C) The study of economic history.
(D) The imperialist justification of colonialism.

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**276.** The British policy towards Oudh, culminating in its annexation in 1856, was based on the pretext of:
(A) The Doctrine of Lapse.
(B) The ruler's anti-British alliances.
(C) Alleged misgovernance by the Nawab.
(D) The need for a direct trade route to Nepal.

**277.** The judiciary under the Company and the Crown was characterized by:
(A) The complete absence of any racial discrimination.
(B) The introduction of a new principle of law and a formal court structure.
(C) The supremacy of traditional Indian law over British law.
(D) The election of judges by popular vote.

**278.** Which of the following was a major consequence of the 'deindustrialization' of the Indian economy?
(A) India became a major exporter of finished industrial goods.
(B) India became increasingly dependent on imported manufactured goods.
(C) The socio-economic condition of artisans

of 'martial races' to ensure loyalty.
(D) Placing Indian officers in command of British troops.

**240.** The commercialization of agriculture is linked to 'famines' because:
(A) Cash crop production often replaced local food grain cultivation, thereby significantly reducing regional food security.
(B) These specific commercial crops required far less water and were genetically designed to be drought-resistant.
(C) The accumulated profits from commercial farming were utilized by the state to maintain a national food buffer.
(D) It consistently generated enough wealth for the average farmer to successfully withstand all major famines.

**241.** The contribution of Syed Ahmad Khan is primarily associated with:
(A) The Khilafat Movement.
(B) The founding of the Aligarh Movement to promote modern education among Muslims.
(C) The articulation of the 'Drain Theory'.
(D) The leadership of the 1857 revolt.

**242.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The early trade union movement in India was often led by nationalists and humanitarians rather than by the workers themselves.
Reason (R): The working class was still in its formative stage, and leaders from outside provided the organizational and ideological leadership needed to voice their grievances.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**243.** The British law relating to the abolition of Sati is a clear example of:
(A) British non-interference in Indian social matters.
(B) Legislative intervention in a social practice, urged by Indian reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
(C) A law passed against the wishes of all Indians.
(D) A law aimed at controlling the Indian economy.

**244.** The key difference between the Dutch and British trading companies in India was that:
(A) The Dutch were more successful in establishing a pan-Indian empire.
(B) The British eventually shifted their focus from trade to territorial conquest more effectively than the Dutch.
(C) The Dutch were not interested in the spice trade.
(D) The British arrived in India before the Dutch.

**245.** The concept of 'Nationalism' that arose in 19th-century India was:
(A) A single, unified ideology with no variations.
(B) A modern consciousness of forming a single nation, which was a departure from earlier regional or dynastic loyalties.
(C) An idea imposed by the British to make administration easier.
(D) A movement to restore the Mughal empire.

**246.** The establishment and expansion of British rule in India can be best described as a process that involved:
(A) Only peaceful treaties and negotiations.
(B) A combination of warfare, diplomacy, and the use of policies like Subsidiary Alliance and Doctrine of Lapse.
(C) The voluntary surrender of all Indian rulers.
(D) A single, decisive battle that gave them control over the entire subcontinent.

**247.** The 'Judiciary' established under the British aimed to:
(A) Uphold traditional Indian justice systems.
(B) Introduce the concept of the rule of law, although it was often applied with a racial bias.
(C) Make the executive and judiciary completely independent of each other.
(D) Give Indian judges supreme authority over European subjects.

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printing books.
(D) Newspapers published in London.

**289.** The term 'Khilafat' refers to:
(A) The title of the ruler of Persia.
(B) A movement in India to support the Caliph of Turkey.
(C) A system of land revenue in Bengal.
(D) A style of painting in the Mughal court.

**290.** The Imperialist school of historiography often presented British expansion in India as:
(A) A story of greed and aggression.
(B) A chaotic and unplanned process.
(C) A 'civilizing mission' to bring progress to a backward society.
(D) A failure to achieve its objectives.

**291.** The administration of the 'Army' under the Crown after 1857 was reorganized to:
(A) Ensure a majority of Indian soldiers over British soldiers.
(B) Place all artillery and advanced weaponry under European control.
(C) Disband the army completely.
(D) Promote a sense of national unity among all soldiers.

**292.** Dadabhai Naoroji's major contribution to the understanding of British rule was his:
(A) Support for the 'forward policy'.
(B) Formulation of the 'Drain Theory'.
(C) Establishment of the Theosophical Society.
(D) Leadership in the social reform movement.

**293.** Which of the following is correct regarding the impact of the British education policy?
(A) It reached every village and every child in India.
(B) It was instrumental in creating a new intellectual class that led the nationalist movement.
(C) It focused primarily on technical and vocational skills.
(D) It preserved and promoted traditional Indian systems of learning.

**294.** The contribution of Savitribai Phule is most noted in the field of:
(A) The labour movement.
(B) Writing a critique of British economic policy.
(C) Promoting women's education and fighting caste discrimination.
(D) Leading a women's organization for political rights.

**295.** Which of the following was not a direct consequence of British economic policies?
(A) The destruction of cottage industries.
(B) The commercialization of agriculture.
(C) The emergence of a large and prosperous class of peasant proprietors across India.
(D) The drain of wealth from India to Britain.

**296.** The 'Subsidiary Alliance' system was a key tool for British expansion and is most famously associated with:
(A) Lord Dalhousie
(B) Lord Wellesley
(C) Lord Curzon
(D) Lord Hastings

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**297.** The 'Subaltern' historiography is most interested in the historical role of:
(A) The Viceroy and the top British officials.
(B) The leaders of the Indian National Congress.
(C) The common people, peasants, and tribals.
(D) The Indian capitalist class.

**298.** The central theme of the administration under both the Company and the Crown was:
(A) The preparation of India for democracy.
(B) The maintenance and consolidation of British power and economic interests.
(C) The welfare of the Indian masses as the primary goal.
(D) The preservation of the existing Indian political structures.

**299.** In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The land settlements introduced by the British disrupted the traditional agrarian structure and led to rural indebtedness.
Reason (R): The high and fixed revenue demands, payable in cash regardless of harvest, forced peasants to borrow from moneylenders at exorbitant rates.
Select the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct

explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**300.** The emergence of women's organizations in modern India signified:
(A) The success of British policy in empowering women.
(B) The growing consciousness among women about their rights and social position.
(C) A decline in the importance of the family structure.
(D) The complete failure of the male-led social reform movements.

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# ANSWERS

1. (B) Subsidiary Alliance
The Subsidiary Alliance was a strategic administrative policy used by the British East India Company to establish dominance over Indian princely states. Under this system, native rulers surrendered their external security and foreign relations to the British in exchange for protection. In return, states paid for the upkeep of British troops or ceded territory for their maintenance.

2. (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Historiography provides different interpretations of colonial rule through various academic schools. The Nationalist school highlights the Indian struggle for independence and critiqued colonial exploitation to foster national pride. Conversely, the Imperialist school attempted to justify British governance by portraying Indian society as stagnant and incapable of internal progress without external administrative and cultural intervention.

3. (C) Local Self-Government was a key feature of the early Company administration.
Early administration under the East India Company focused primarily on political consolidation and revenue collection rather than administrative decentralization. While the judiciary, army, and police systems were systematically developed between 1773 and 1853, local self-government was not a priority. This feature only became significant much later in the nineteenth century, particularly under the viceroyalty of Lord Ripon.

4. (D) The annexation of a princely state if its ruler died without a natural heir.
The Doctrine of Lapse was an annexation policy implemented by Lord Dalhousie to expand British territorial control in India. It stipulated that any princely state under British influence would be annexed if the ruler died without a direct natural heir. This policy refused to recognize the traditional Indian practice of adopting successors, leading to the takeover of several states.

5. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
British economic policies shifted Indian agriculture from subsistence farming to the production of cash crops for global markets. This commercialization made farmers highly vulnerable to volatile international price fluctuations. To meet rigid land revenue demands and purchase necessary inputs, many peasants were forced to borrow from moneylenders at high interest rates, leading to chronic and widespread rural indebtedness.

6. (B) Keshav Dhondo Karve
Keshav Dhondo Karve was a dedicated social reformer who focused on improving the lives of women, particularly widows, through education and empowerment. He established several institutions to provide vocational and academic training, eventually founding the first women's university in India. His tireless efforts significantly contributed to the social regeneration and the advancement of female literacy and independence in Maharashtra.

7. (D) To control and suppress seditious writing in Indian-language newspapers.
The Vernacular Press Act was enacted in 1878 to curb the growing influence of Indian-language newspapers that criticized British policies. It provided the government with extensive powers to censor and suppress content deemed seditious. By specifically targeting the vernacular press while exempting English-language publications, the act sought to stifle nationalist sentiment among the masses and control public political discourse.

8. (A) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
The constitutional and ideological framework of British India included diverse systems and movements. Dyarchy introduced dual governance in provinces, while Orientalism involved the Western study of Eastern cultures. Paramountcy established British sovereignty over princely states, asserting ultimate control. Meanwhile, the Khilafat movement was a significant pan-

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Islamic protest aimed at protecting the religious and political authority of the Turkish Caliphate globally.

**9.** (C) Archaeological artifacts
Historical research for the modern period relies on diverse materials to reconstruct past events. Archival materials generally include official records, newspapers, memoirs, and oral evidence that provide direct insights into social and political developments. While archaeological artifacts are crucial for ancient and medieval history, they are not typically categorized as primary archival materials for studying nineteenth and twentieth-century India.

**10.** (A) Dadabhai Naoroji
Dadabhai Naoroji formulated the Drain Theory to explain Indian poverty under colonial rule. He argued that Britain was systematically transferring wealth from India through salaries, pensions, and trade profits without any equivalent economic return. This critique became a cornerstone of the nationalist economic argument, highlighting how colonial exploitation impoverished the Indian subcontinent and hindered its internal development and overall prosperity.

**11.** (A) 1 and 2 only
European trade in India began with the arrival of the Portuguese, who established the first significant maritime presence. The Dutch later entered the scene, focusing primarily on the lucrative trade of textiles and spices from the East. While the French and British also established trading posts, the statements concerning the Portuguese priority and Dutch commercial focus accurately reflect historical trade patterns.

**12.** (B) Relations with states on the northwestern frontier, particularly Afghanistan.
The forward policy was a strategic military and diplomatic approach adopted by the British in the nineteenth century. It aimed to secure the northwestern frontiers of India by proactively extending influence into neighboring territories, especially Afghanistan. This policy was driven by the fear of Russian expansion toward the Indian subcontinent, leading to several military interventions and diplomatic negotiations in the region.

**13.** (C) Subaltern
The Subaltern school of historiography emerged as a critique of elite-centered narratives in Indian history. It focuses on the roles, experiences, and agency of marginalized groups, such as peasants, workers, and tribal communities, who were often ignored by Nationalist or Imperialist historians. By examining history from below, this approach provides a more inclusive and diverse understanding of social movements.

**14.** (D) The Regulating Act of 1773
The Regulating Act of 1773 marked the first significant attempt by the British Parliament to oversee and regulate the affairs of the East India Company. It established a central administrative structure by creating the office of Governor-General of Bengal. Additionally, the act provided for the founding of a Supreme Court at Calcutta, laying the foundation for a modern judicial system.

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**15.** (B) 3, 4, 2, 1
European powers established trading centers in India at different times to exploit the region's commercial potential. The Portuguese arrived first in the late fifteenth century, followed by the Dutch in the early seventeenth century. The British established their presence shortly after the Dutch, while the French were the last major European power to enter the Indian trade market later that century.

**16.** (B) R.C. Dutt - The Economic History of India
Economic history of colonial India was extensively documented by various scholars who analyzed the impact of British rule. Romesh Chunder Dutt authored a comprehensive work that detailed the economic conditions and policies affecting the country. His analysis focused on the heavy burden of land revenue and the decline of traditional industries, providing a foundational critique of the colonial economic structure.

**17.** (B) Women's education and social reform.
Savitribai Phule was a pioneering figure in Indian social reform, focusing intensely on education and the empowerment of marginalized groups. Alongside her husband, she established schools for girls and worked to eradicate discriminatory caste practices. Her contributions were vital in challenging social hierarchies and promoting

literacy among women and lower castes, laying the groundwork for future movements in Maharashtra.

**18.** (A) The process of deindustrialization and increased pressure on agriculture.
The influx of cheap, machine-made goods from Britain led to the collapse of traditional Indian handicrafts and cottage industries. This process of deindustrialization deprived millions of artisans of their livelihoods, forcing them to turn to agriculture for survival. Consequently, the pressure on land increased significantly, leading to economic stagnation in rural areas and the overall impoverishment of the artisan class.

**19.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was widely condemned for its discriminatory nature and restrictive provisions. It was designed to suppress political dissent by specifically targeting newspapers published in Indian languages, while leaving the English press unregulated. This disparity highlighted the colonial government's attempt to control the spread of nationalist ideas among the masses who relied primarily on vernacular sources.

**20.** (D) The British fought a series of major wars against Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan for control of the region.
The relationship between the British and Mysore was defined by intense military conflict during the late eighteenth century. Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan offered formidable resistance to British expansion in southern India. These tensions led to four major Anglo-Mysore wars, culminating in the death of Tipu Sultan and the eventual establishment of British control over the strategic region.

**21.** (C) The division of provincial subjects into 'transferred' and 'reserved' categories.
Dyarchy was an administrative system introduced in the Indian provinces through the Government of India Act of 1919. It involved a dual form of government where subjects were divided into two distinct categories. Transferred subjects were managed by Indian ministers, while reserved subjects remained under the control of British officials, maintaining ultimate colonial authority over crucial departments like finance.

**22.** (B) Encourage universal brotherhood and the study of comparative religion and philosophy.
The Theosophical Society aimed to foster a sense of universal brotherhood and promoted the study of ancient religious and philosophical traditions. Under the leadership of Annie Besant, the organization encouraged Indians to take pride in their cultural heritage. This spiritual and intellectual revival contributed significantly to the growing sense of national identity and confidence among the Indian educated classes.

**23.** (D) Jagirdari Settlement
British land revenue administration in India was characterized by three primary systems: the Permanent Settlement, the Ryotwari system, and the Mahalwari settlement. These policies were designed to maximize revenue collection for the colonial state. While the Jagirdari system existed during the Mughal period, it was not one of the major standardized land settlement policies introduced by the British administration.

**24.** (A) The conflict between social and economic classes.
The Marxist school of historiography analyzes Indian history through the perspective of class struggle and economic relations. It views the development of nationalism and the freedom movement as reflecting the interests of different socio-economic classes. This approach emphasizes how changes in production and the emergence of a colonial economy shaped political ideologies and the eventual conflict with British rule.

**25.** (C) The outbreak of the Revolt of 1857 and the need to control the press.
The Licensing Act of 1857 was a temporary and emergency measure enacted by the British government during the widespread rebellion. Its primary objective was to regulate the press and prevent the publication of materials that could incite further resistance or spread revolutionary ideas. This act required all printing presses to obtain licenses, granting the government significant control over public communication.

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**26.** (A) The assertion of supreme British authority over the princely states, superseding their indigenous sovereignty.
Paramountcy was a political doctrine establishing the British Crown as the ultimate authority over all princely states in India. It implied that the sovereignty of native rulers was subordinate to British power, allowing for intervention in their internal affairs when deemed necessary. This relationship ensured that the British maintained overall control while preserving the existence of the princely states.

**27.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Prominent social reformers in nineteenth-century India established various organizations to address social and religious issues. Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahmo Samaj, while Dayanand Saraswati established the Arya Samaj. Swami Vivekananda created the Ramakrishna Mission to promote spiritual and social service, and Syed Ahmad Khan initiated the Aligarh Movement to encourage modern education among the Muslim community.

**28.** (B) An ideology that emphasizes the separate and antagonistic interests of different religious communities.
Communalism in modern India is an ideology that promotes the belief that religious identity is the primary basis for social and political interests. This perspective often suggests that the interests of different religious communities are mutually exclusive and inherently antagonistic. Historically, this ideology was exploited by the colonial administration through policies that encouraged divisions within the diverse Indian population.

**29.** (B) 2 only
British education policy in India focused on introducing Western learning and the English language. This initiative aimed to create a class of educated Indians who could assist in the administration of the colonial state. While it successfully produced a new intellectual elite, it largely neglected traditional systems and failed to provide a uniform or positive impact across all sections of society.

**30.** (D) A series of wars leading to the eventual subjugation of Maratha power.
The relationship between the British and the Maratha confederacy was marked by intense rivalry for political supremacy in India. A series of three Anglo-Maratha wars were fought between 1775 and 1818. These conflicts eventually resulted in the defeat of the Maratha chiefs, the dismantling of their confederacy, and the consolidation of British authority over western and central India.

**31.** (A) Dyarchy - A system of single, unified government in provinces.
Dyarchy was a system of dual government introduced in the provinces of British India by the Government of India Act of 1919. It was not a single, unified administration; instead, it divided provincial subjects into reserved and transferred categories. Other concepts like colonialism, the doctrine of lapse, and the khilafat movement are correctly defined in terms of their historical context.

NODIA

**32.** (B) Both Nationalist and Marxist elite-centric historiography
The Subaltern school of historiography emerged as a critical response to both Nationalist and Marxist approaches. It argued that these traditional schools focused too heavily on elite leaders and political structures, neglecting the independent consciousness of the masses. By prioritizing the voices of peasants and laborers, Subaltern historians sought to correct the elite-centric bias inherent in earlier historical narratives.

**33.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Industrial development in colonial India was limited and unevenly distributed, primarily serving British interests. The colonial state maintained India as a source of raw materials and a captive market for finished British goods. Consequently, modern industries like textiles and steel developed slowly and lacked the comprehensive support needed for a balanced and self-sustaining industrial economy across the country.

**34.** (A) German
The competition for trade in India involved several major European powers including the Portuguese, Dutch, British, and French. These nations established numerous trading posts and factories along the coast starting from the late fifteenth century. German traders did not establish a significant or early presence in the Indian subcontinent compared to the other powers that consolidated their political and economic influence.

**35.** (C) Strengthening the administrative and military control of the British over India.
The systematic development of the civil service, judiciary, police, and army was central to British colonial governance. These institutions were designed to ensure efficient revenue collection, maintain law and order, and provide a strong military defense against internal rebellions and external threats. Their primary function was to consolidate and preserve British power over the vast and diverse Indian population.

**36.** (C) 1 and 3 only
British economic policies significantly impacted India through deindustrialization, which caused the decline of traditional handicraft industries. Additionally, government actions related to high revenue demands and the export of food grains often worsened the severity of famines and epidemics. Contrary to benefitting the Indian economy, British monetary and fiscal policies were primarily structured to serve the needs of the colonial metropole.

**37.** (C) Challenging the caste system and promoting education for lower castes and women.
Jyotiba Phule was a radical social reformer who dedicated his life to challenging the oppressive caste hierarchy and promoting social equality. He founded the Satyasodhak Samaj to empower marginalized groups and was a pioneer in advocating for the education of women and the lower castes. His efforts focused on dismantling traditional social barriers through institutional education and public awareness campaigns.

**38.** (B) The study of Indian languages, literature, and culture by Western scholars.
Orientalism refers to a scholarly movement where Western intellectuals studied Eastern languages, philosophies, and cultures. While some scholars admired and romanticized Indian traditions, the perspective often operated from a position of Western cultural superiority. This field of study provided the colonial administration with essential knowledge about Indian society, which facilitated more effective governance and cultural control over the colonized population.

**39.** (D) Increasing centralization of power under the Governor-General.
Between 1773 and 1853, the administration of the East India Company underwent a process of significant centralization. Through various parliamentary acts, the authority of the Governor-General of Bengal was gradually strengthened over the other presidencies of Bombay and Madras. This evolution aimed to create a more unified and efficient administrative structure to manage the expanding territories of the British Empire.

**40.** (A) 4, 2, 3, 1
The consolidation of British rule followed a specific chronological sequence of events and policies. The Regulating Act of 1773 established the initial administrative framework. This was followed by the solidification of British paramountcy over princely states in the early nineteenth century. Subsequently, the Doctrine of Lapse was implemented in the mid-1800s, while the system of dyarchy was introduced much later in 1919.

**41.** (C) Oudh was subjected to the Subsidiary Alliance and later annexed on grounds of misgovernance.
The relationship between the British and the state of Oudh was characterized by gradual political encroachment. Oudh first entered a Subsidiary Alliance, which significantly reduced its military independence. In 1856, despite the ruler's loyalty, the British annexed the state on the pretext of chronic misgovernance. This controversial action caused widespread resentment and became a major factor in the 1857 uprising.

**42.** (A) Novels and artworks depicting colonial society
Creative literature and visual arts serve as vital sources for understanding the social and cultural history of modern India. Novels, poems, and paintings from the colonial period reflect the

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subjective experiences, attitudes, and social tensions of the time. These sources provide insights into the lived realities and perceptions of both the elite and common people that official archival records often ignore.

**43.** (D) The economic exploitation and transfer of wealth from India to Britain.
The Drain Theory was a foundational economic critique of British rule, highlighting the systematic transfer of India's resources to Britain. Nationalists argued that this wealth transfer, occurring through salaries, pensions, and trade imbalances, impoverished India and prevented domestic capital formation. This theory provided a powerful argument against the colonial claim that British rule was economically beneficial to the Indian population.

**44.** (B) It created a small, urban, English-educated class that often sought government employment.
British education policy was designed to create an English-educated class capable of serving the administrative needs of the colonial state. This led to the emergence of a new urban elite who were exposed to modern Western ideas. While this class initially sought government employment, they eventually became the vanguard of the nationalist movement, using their education to articulate political demands.

**45.** (C) The decline and destruction of traditional cottage industries and handicrafts.
Deindustrialization in India refers to the systematic decline of traditional handicrafts and cottage industries under colonial rule. This was primarily caused by the influx of cheap, machine-made textiles from Britain and the loss of patronage from native courts. Millions of artisans lost their livelihoods, leading to an increased dependence on agriculture and overall economic stagnation in the traditional manufacturing sector.

**46.** (D) Syed Ahmad Khan - Brahmo Samaj
Social and religious reform movements in India were led by various influential figures. Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahmo Samaj, while Dayanand Saraswati established the Arya Samaj. Annie Besant was a prominent leader of the Theosophical Society, and Jyotiba Phule founded the Satyasodhak Samaj. Syed Ahmad Khan, however, was the leader of the Aligarh Movement, not the Brahmo Samaj.

**47.** (A) The gradual introduction of representative elements and provincial autonomy.
Constitutional changes between 1909 and 1935 were marked by a slow and calculated expansion of representative government. These reforms introduced separate electorates, the system of dyarchy, and eventually provincial autonomy. While these measures provided Indians with a greater role in administration, they were designed to maintain ultimate British control through various safeguards and the strategy of balancing different political interests.

**48.** (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
British expansion in India utilized several key administrative and diplomatic strategies. The Subsidiary Alliance allowed the British to control a state's defense and foreign affairs. The Doctrine of Lapse involved the annexation of states lacking a natural heir. The forward policy focused on proactive intervention on the northwestern frontier, while paramountcy asserted the ultimate sovereignty of the British Crown over princely states.

**49.** (B) To protest against the British government's treatment of the Ottoman Empire and preserve the authority of the Caliph.
The Khilafat movement was a pan-Islamic protest initiated by Indian Muslims following the First World War. Its primary aim was to pressure the British government to preserve the religious and political authority of the Ottoman Sultan as the Caliph. This movement gained significant momentum when it was linked with the Non-Cooperation Movement, fostering Hindu-Muslim unity against colonial rule for a period.

**50.** (A) A minor sepoy mutiny caused by religious grievances.
The Imperialist school of historiography frequently downplayed the significance of the 1857 uprising by characterizing it as a mere sepoy mutiny. This perspective emphasized localized grievances and religious concerns among soldiers while ignoring the broader political and social dissatisfaction with colonial rule. Such interpretations served to legitimize

NODIA

British governance by minimizing the popular and nationalistic elements of the revolt.

**51.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The establishment of a professional and centralized police force was essential for maintaining British colonial rule in India. This force was primarily designed to enforce the authority of the state, suppress political dissent, and manage internal security. By providing the colonial administration with a reliable instrument of coercion, the police played a crucial role in consolidating and preserving British power.

**52.** (D) A shift from subsistence farming to the production of crops for the market.
Commercialization of agriculture refers to the transition from growing food crops for local consumption to producing cash crops for national and international markets. This shift was encouraged by the colonial state to ensure a steady supply of raw materials for British industries. While it integrated Indian agriculture into the global economy, it often made the peasantry more vulnerable to market fluctuations.

**53.** (C) The synthesis of modern Western learning with Indian culture.
Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a visionary reformer who believed that India's progress depended on a balanced education system. He advocated for the introduction of modern Western sciences and English education while maintaining a deep respect for Indian philosophical traditions. By promoting this synthesis, he aimed to modernize Indian society and equip future generations with the intellectual tools needed for social regeneration.

**54.** (B) The consciousness of a shared identity and the aspiration for political unity and sovereignty as a nation.
Nationalism in modern India developed as a collective consciousness based on a shared experience of colonial rule and an aspiration for political independence. It transcended regional, religious, and linguistic differences, fostering a sense of belonging to a single nation. This evolving identity was crucial in mobilizing the masses against British imperialism and demanding the right to self-governance and national sovereignty.

**55.** (D) The strategic importance of the Punjab region after the conquest of Sindh and the decline of the Marathas.
The British conflict with the Sikhs was primarily driven by strategic considerations and the desire for territorial expansion. Following the conquest of Sindh and the fall of the Maratha power, the Punjab remained the last significant independent state in India. Its location on the northwestern frontier made it vital for securing the empire's borders, leading to the eventual annexation of the region.

**56.** (C) 1 and 3 only
Sources for modern Indian history include official archives, newspapers, and personal accounts like biographies and memoirs. Biographies provide individual perspectives but require careful analysis for potential subjectivity. Newspapers are essential for understanding public opinion and contemporary debates. While oral evidence is valuable, its reliability must be assessed alongside written records to provide a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the historical period.

**57.** (C) The Battle of Buxar
The Battle of Buxar in 1764 was a decisive event that firmly established British political supremacy in Bengal. By defeating the combined forces of the Nawab of Bengal, the Nawab of Oudh, and the Mughal Emperor, the East India Company obtained the Diwani rights. This granted them formal control over the revenue administration of Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha, laying the foundation.

**58.** (A) High land revenue demands, commercialization of agriculture, and the role of moneylenders.
Rural indebtedness during British rule was a complex phenomenon caused by several interconnected factors. The colonial state's rigid and high land revenue demands forced many peasants to borrow money. The shift toward commercial crops and the reliance on local moneylenders who charged exorbitant interest rates created a cycle of debt. This situation was further worsened by frequent crop failures and price fluctuations.

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**59.** (D) The promotion of Indian officers to the highest command positions.
The British Indian Army was a highly organized force characterized by strict discipline, regular salaries, and modern weaponry. However, the administrative structure was marked by racial discrimination, as high command positions were reserved exclusively for British officers. Indian soldiers, or sepoys, were excluded from the highest ranks, a policy designed to ensure British control and prevent any potential leadership within the Indian ranks.

**60.** (B) Syed Ahmad Khan
Syed Ahmad Khan was a transformative leader who believed that the progress of Indian Muslims depended on modern education. He founded the Aligarh Movement and established the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, which later became Aligarh Muslim University. His efforts focused on encouraging the Muslim community to embrace Western sciences and literature while remaining rooted in their religious and cultural identity during colonial rule.

**61.** (2, 4, 1, 3)
The regulation of the press in British India followed a chronological sequence of legislative measures. The Licensing Act of 1857 was followed by the Press and Registration of Books Act in 1867. Subsequently, the Vernacular Press Act was enacted in 1878 to curb Indian-language publications. Finally, the Indian Press Act of 1910 was introduced to further restrict the freedom of the press during the nationalist movement.

**62.** (D) The complete integration of the colony's economy with that of the metropole for the latter's benefit.
Colonialism in modern history involves the systematic political and economic subordination of one territory by another. Unlike earlier empires, modern colonialism restructured the economy of the colony to serve as a source of raw materials and a market for the industrial products of the ruling nation. This relationship resulted in the exploitation of resources and the overall underdevelopment of the colonized society for the metropole's benefit.

**63.** (A) The Subaltern school focuses on the history of the elites and national leaders.
The Subaltern school of historiography is distinct because it specifically rejects the traditional focus on elite leaders and political structures. Instead, it seeks to explore history through the perspectives and agency of marginalized groups like peasants and workers. Other schools, such as the Nationalist, Marxist, and Orientalist, are correctly characterized by their respective focuses on independence, class analysis, and Western study of the East.

**64.** (B) The early and willing acceptance of the Subsidiary Alliance by the Nizam.
The relationship between the British and the state of Hyderabad was solidified through diplomatic cooperation. The Nizam was among the first Indian rulers to accept the Subsidiary Alliance, which provided British military protection in exchange for political subordination. This arrangement ensured that Hyderabad remained a loyal ally, allowing the British to consolidate their influence in southern India without engaging in prolonged military conflicts.

**65.** (B) It involved the establishment of a hierarchy of courts and the codification of laws.
The development of the judiciary under the East India Company led to the creation of a formal and hierarchical court system. This process included the establishment of civil and criminal courts and the gradual codification of laws based on a combination of British legal principles and existing traditions. These reforms aimed to create a more predictable and centralized legal framework to manage administration and disputes.

**66.** (A) Early legislations that attempted to regulate working hours and conditions, especially for women and children.
Factory laws in British India were early attempts to regulate the burgeoning industrial sector. These legislations primarily focused on establishing maximum working hours and improving safety conditions for workers, with a particular emphasis on protecting women and children. While these laws were often limited in scope and enforcement, they represented the initial steps toward providing legal protections for the emerging industrial labor force.

NODIA

**67.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Swami Vivekananda was a key figure in the spiritual and national awakening of modern India. His message emphasized self-confidence, social service, and the dynamic interpretation of traditional scriptures to suit modern needs. By appealing to the youth and promoting a sense of national pride and strength, his teachings provided a moral and intellectual foundation that significantly influenced the developing nationalist movement across India.

**68.** (D) The emergence of modern industries and a factory workforce.
The growth of the labor and trade union movement in India was a direct result of industrialization. As modern industries like textiles and jute developed, a new class of wage-earning factory workers emerged in urban centers. The harsh working conditions and low wages in these factories led to the formation of organizations aimed at collectively bargaining for better rights, marking the beginning of organized labor.

**69.** (C) The Sati Regulation Act of 1829
Social reform movements in the nineteenth century sought to improve the status of women by challenging oppressive traditional practices. One of the most significant achievements was the enactment of the Sati Regulation Act of 1829, which formally abolished the practice of self-immolation by widows. This legislation was the result of persistent advocacy by reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who urged the government to intervene.

**70.** (B) A growing entity, but subject to periodic regulations and restrictions.
Before the 1857 uprising, the Indian press was a developing and dynamic sector featuring both English and vernacular publications. However, it was not entirely free, as the British administration periodically introduced various regulations and licensing requirements to monitor and control content. These early measures reflected the government's dual attitude of acknowledging the importance of the press while remaining cautious about its potential to incite dissent.

**71.** (A) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
Several key policies and concepts shaped British colonial rule and the Indian response. Lord Wellesley introduced the Subsidiary Alliance, while Lord Dalhousie was the architect of the Doctrine of Lapse. The Khilafat movement centered on the authority of the Ottoman Sultan, and the Drain Theory was famously articulated by Dadabhai Naoroji to critique the economic exploitation of the Indian subcontinent by the British administration.

**72.** (A) Oudh
The annexation of Oudh in 1856 was justified by the British on the grounds that the region suffered from chronic misgovernance and administrative inefficiency. However, Indian perspectives viewed this action as a blatant and unjust expansion of imperial power, especially given the Nawab's long history of loyalty. This annexation caused deep resentment among the people and the sepoys, contributing significantly to the 1857 revolt.

NODIA

**73.** (C) Tending to minimize internal social conflicts to present a unified narrative of the national struggle.
The Nationalist school of historiography is often criticized for its tendency to project a unified and homogeneous image of the Indian nation during the freedom struggle. Critics argue that this approach frequently overlooked internal social divisions, such as caste, class, and gender conflicts, in favor of a cohesive narrative against colonial rule. By prioritizing political unity, these historians sometimes minimized the complexities of Indian society.

**74.** (B) 2 and 3 only
Following the transition to Crown rule in 1858, the British administration reorganized the civil service, police, and army to ensure firm control and prevent future rebellions. The policy of paramountcy over princely states was maintained, not abandoned, to secure their loyalty. Additionally, limited steps were taken to introduce local self-government as a means of improving administrative efficiency and addressing the growing demands of the educated Indian elite.

Imperialist historians generally viewed British governance as a modernizing and benevolent force that brought progress to a stagnant society. In contrast, Nationalist historians emphasized the exploitative nature of colonialism and the Indian people's struggle for independence, highlighting the economic drain and social disruption caused by foreign rule.

**122.** (A) Pan-Islamic and international.
The Khilafat movement was a pan-Islamic and international protest movement led by Indian Muslims. Its main objective was to preserve the authority of the Ottoman Sultan as the Caliph, the spiritual leader of the global Muslim community, following the First World War. While it had a significant impact on Indian politics by fostering Hindu-Muslim unity, its primary focus remained on religious and political concerns that transcended national borders.

**123.** (D) Two major wars leading to the annexation of Punjab.
The relationship between the British and the Sikh kingdom of Punjab was marked by military conflict following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Two Anglo-Sikh wars were fought in the 1840s due to political instability and British strategic interests. These conflicts resulted in the defeat of the Sikh forces and the eventual annexation of Punjab in 1849, marking the completion of British expansion in the northwestern part of the subcontinent.

**124.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The development of a professional civil service was essential for consolidating British rule in India. It provided an efficient administrative structure to manage the vast territories and secure colonial interests. However, despite being a crucial instrument of governance, the civil service was characterized by racial exclusion for much of its history, with high-level positions being reserved almost exclusively for British personnel rather than being open to Indians.

**125.** (D) The government's large-scale program of providing easy, low-interest credit to cultivators.
Rural indebtedness during British rule was exacerbated by several factors, including rigid land revenue systems, the role of high-interest moneylenders, and the shift toward commercial agriculture. The colonial government generally failed to provide a large-scale system of easy, low-interest credit to cultivators. Instead, the lack of institutional finance forced peasants to rely on private lenders, which trapped many in a persistent and debilitating cycle of debt.

**126.** (B) The promotion of a practical, socially-oriented Vedanta and a strong sense of national self-respect.
Swami Vivekananda was a key figure in the cultural and spiritual awakening of modern India. He promoted a dynamic and socially-oriented interpretation of Vedanta philosophy, emphasizing the importance of service to humanity and self-confidence. His teachings helped foster a strong sense of national self-respect among Indians, encouraging them to reconcile their spiritual heritage with modern social and political challenges to contribute to the nation's progress.

**127.** (C) It was a developing entity with both English and vernacular papers, subject to government regulation.
Before the 1857 revolt, the Indian press was a growing and increasingly diverse sector that included both English and Indian-language newspapers. While it played a significant role in public life, it was not completely free from government control. The British administration periodically introduced regulations and licensing requirements to monitor content, reflecting a cautious attitude toward the burgeoning press and its potential influence on public political discourse.

**128.** (B) The British Crown's authority was superior to that of the princely states, even in their internal affairs if necessary.
Paramountcy was a doctrine that established the supreme authority of the British Crown over the Indian princely states. It meant that while states maintained a degree of internal autonomy, their sovereignty was subordinate to British power. The British claimed the right to intervene in the internal affairs of these states whenever they deemed it necessary for administrative efficiency or the overall security and interests of the empire.

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and destitute women, challenging traditional social restrictions. Her work was instrumental in promoting female literacy and advocating for the rights of women within a patriarchal society, making her a significant figure in the history of social reform.

**83.** (C) Vernacular Press Act - Lord Lytton
The administrative history of British India is marked by various policies associated with specific Viceroys and Governors-General. Lord Lytton is responsible for the enactment of the Vernacular Press Act of 1878, which aimed to suppress dissent in Indian-language newspapers. Other matches like local self-government with Lord Ripon, and the Subsidiary Alliance with Lord Wellesley, correctly identify the individuals primarily responsible for those significant measures.

**84.** (A) 2, 3, 1, 4
Social and intellectual movements in modern India followed a clear chronological progression. Raja Ram Mohan Roy's campaigns against Sati began in the early nineteenth century. Jyotiba Phule's social work for lower-caste education emerged mid-century, followed by the systematic articulation of the Drain Theory by Dadabhai Naoroji in the late 1860s. Finally, Swami Vivekananda achieved international recognition through his Chicago address toward the end of the century.

**85.** (C) The Carnatic Wars
The Carnatic Wars were a series of conflicts fought between the British and French East India Companies for political and commercial supremacy in southern India. These wars, which took place in the mid-eighteenth century, eventually resulted in a British victory. This success eliminated the French as a major political rival, allowing the British to consolidate their power and expand their influence across the Indian subcontinent.

**86.** (B) A movement led by the bourgeoisie to mobilize the masses against colonialism to secure their own class interests.
The Marxist interpretation of Indian nationalism suggests that the movement was primarily led by the emerging Indian middle class and capitalist groups. According to this view, these elite groups mobilized the masses against colonial rule to achieve political independence that would ultimately benefit their own class interests. This approach highlights the internal class dynamics and economic motivations that shaped the nature and goals of the nationalist struggle.

**87.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The constitutional reforms of 1909, 1919, and 1935 were strategically designed to manage growing nationalist aspirations without surrendering ultimate British control. The "concession-counterpoise" strategy involved granting limited powers to Indians while simultaneously introducing safeguards and divisions, such as separate electorates, to balance those powers. Consequently, these measures were often viewed as inadequate and failed to satisfy the demand for complete self-rule.

**88.** (A) The gradual strengthening of the authority of the Governor-General of Bengal over other presidencies.
The evolution of the central administrative structure between 1773 and 1853 was characterized by the increasing centralization of power. Parliamentary acts during this period systematically elevated the position of the Governor-General of Bengal, eventually giving him authority over the Bombay and Madras presidencies. This move was intended to create a unified and more efficient administration for the expanding territories of the East India Company.

**89.** (C) Their impoverishment and displacement due to competition from machine-made goods.
During British rule, the socio-economic condition of Indian artisans deteriorated significantly due to the influx of cheap, machine-made goods from Britain. This process of deindustrialization destroyed traditional handicrafts and cottage industries, leading to the widespread displacement of artisans. Many were forced into low-wage agricultural labor or faced extreme poverty, marking a period of systematic economic decline for the once-prosperous artisan class across the country.

NODIA

in 1799 with the death of Tipu Sultan and the defeat of his kingdom, after which the British established control and restored the Wodeyar dynasty as a subordinate ally.

**137.** (C) Concentrated in a few sectors like cotton textiles, jute, and steel, and in specific regions.
Modern industrial growth in colonial India was limited and unevenly distributed. It was primarily concentrated in a few specific sectors such as cotton textiles, jute, and later steel, and localized in specific regions like Bombay, Calcutta, and Jamshedpur. This lopsided development was a result of colonial policies that favored British interests, ensuring that India remained primarily an agricultural economy while providing limited opportunities for modern industrial expansion.

**138.** (B) A pioneering effort in the field of education for women and lower castes.
Savitribai Phule was a trailblazing social reformer who dedicated her life to the education and empowerment of women and marginalized communities. Along with her husband, she opened the first school for girls in Pune and worked tirelessly to challenge caste-based discrimination and social exclusion. Her efforts represented a significant pioneering movement that laid the foundations for modern female education and social equality in Maharashtra and across India.

**139.** (B) The subjugation of one people by another and the structuring of the colony's economy and society to serve the interests of the metropole.
Colonialism is a system where one nation establishes political and economic dominance over another territory and its people. Under this relationship, the colony's resources, labor, and economic structures are systematically organized to serve the interests of the ruling power, often at the expense of the colonized society. This results in the exploitation of the colony and its overall underdevelopment, as the metropole benefits from wealth transfer and market control.

**140.** (C) A true but R is false.
The Vernacular Press Act was indeed repealed, but the reason was not because it was seen as popular or effective. Instead, it was highly criticized as a discriminatory and repressive measure by Indians and some British officials who believed it stifled legitimate public discourse. Its repeal reflected the government's response to intense public pressure and the recognition that the act had become a significant source of nationalist grievance.

**141.** (D) The encouragement of nationalist sentiments among the Indian sepoys.
The British Indian Army was organized to ensure maximum efficiency and loyalty to the colonial state. It featured a hierarchical structure with British officers in command and used Indian sepoys as the primary fighting force. After 1857, the policy focused on carefully balancing troop compositions and strictly preventing the growth of nationalist sentiments among the soldiers to ensure that the army remained a reliable instrument of colonial control.

**142.** (B) It connected them to a volatile global market, making them vulnerable to price crashes and debt.
The commercialization of agriculture negatively impacted many peasants by connecting them to the fluctuations of the global market. Unlike subsistence farming, growing cash crops made farmers dependent on international prices. When prices crashed, many were unable to pay high land revenue or debts, leading to increased rural poverty. This process often benefited middlemen and exporters while leaving the actual producers vulnerable to economic instability and chronic indebtedness.

**143.** (B) Promote social and educational modernization among Indian Muslims to align them with the new realities of British rule.
Syed Ahmad Khan was a visionary leader who believed that the future of Indian Muslims lay in embracing modern education and scientific thought. He aimed to modernize the community to better navigate the social and political changes brought by British rule. By founding institutions like the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, he sought to reconcile Islamic values with Western learning, fostering a new class of educated Muslim professionals.

**144.** (B) Its adherence to laissez-faire principles, which delayed and limited effective intervention.
The British government's policy toward famines and epidemics was often criticized for

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mobilization and education, helping to build a collective national consciousness among the diverse populations of the Indian subcontinent.

**98.** (A) The indirect political and military subordination of Indian states to British power.
The Subsidiary Alliance was a key diplomatic and military instrument used by the British to expand their influence in India. By compelling princely states to accept British troops and control over their foreign policy, the system effectively reduced native rulers to a subordinate position. This allowed the British to maintain large armies at the expense of others while ensuring the political compliance of major regional powers.

**99.** (C) Superior naval power, financial resources, and the support of the British government.
The British were able to establish their dominance over other European rivals primarily due to their superior naval strength and better financial organization. As a private company with strong government support and significant resources, the British East India Company could sustain long-term military campaigns and political interventions. This combination of naval supremacy and economic dynamism eventually allowed them to eliminate competitors and consolidate their control.

**100.** (D) The Rowlatt Act
British administration in India enacted several laws related to social reforms, particularly those concerning the status of women. These included regulations against Sati, the Widow Remarriage Act, and legislation regarding the age of consent. In contrast, the Rowlatt Act was a repressive political measure that allowed the government to imprison people without trial to curb revolutionary activities. It was not related to social reforms or women's rights.

**101.** (B) Ignored the long-standing Indian tradition of adopting an heir.
The Doctrine of Lapse was highly controversial because it directly conflicted with established Indian social and political traditions. For centuries, rulers without a natural heir had the right to adopt a successor to ensure the continuity of their dynasty. By refusing to recognize these adoptions and annexing states that lacked natural heirs, the British violated indigenous customs and intensified resentment among the princely families and their subjects.

**102.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
British education policy in India primarily benefited urban, upper-caste males, leading to the creation of a new English-speaking elite. This focus resulted in a significant educational divide, as the needs of the rural masses and women were largely ignored by the colonial state. While the policy introduced modern ideas, its limited reach and skewed implementation contributed to social stratification and long-term disparities in Indian society.

NODIA

**103.** (C) Subaltern
Oral evidence is particularly significant for the Subaltern school of historiography, which seeks to document the history of marginalized groups. Since these communities often left few written records, their experiences and perspectives are frequently preserved through oral traditions and personal accounts. By collecting and analyzing this evidence, Subaltern historians can provide a more comprehensive and inclusive narrative that includes the voices of the common people.

**104.** (D) It evolved from a locally controlled system to a centrally organized, hierarchical force.
Under British rule, the police system in India underwent a major transformation from a fragmented, locally controlled structure to a highly centralized and hierarchical organization. This evolution was aimed at creating a more efficient and reliable instrument for maintaining law and order and suppressing political dissent across the empire. The new structure ensured that the police remained accountable to the central colonial administration rather than to local communities.

**105.** (C) 1 and 3 only
Deindustrialization and the Drain Theory were central themes in the economic critiques provided by early nationalists like Dadabhai Naoroji and R.C. Dutt. They argued that colonial policies caused the decline of traditional manufacturing and led to the systematic outflow of wealth from India. This decline forced many former artisans into agriculture, resulting in the overcrowding

**75.** (D) Analyzing the decline of Indian industries and the impact of land revenue policies.
Romesh Chunder Dutt was a prominent economic historian who provided a detailed analysis of the negative economic impacts of British rule. His work focused on how high land revenue demands impoverished the peasantry and how colonial trade policies led to the decline of traditional Indian manufacturing. Through his research, he highlighted the structural flaws of the colonial economy and their long-term consequences for the country.

**76.** (B) Encouraging Indians to feel pride in their ancient philosophical and religious heritage.
The Theosophical Society, under the leadership of Annie Besant, played a significant role in the cultural regeneration of modern India. By studying and promoting ancient Indian philosophy and religions, the society helped foster a sense of national pride among the educated classes. This cultural awakening provided a psychological boost to the nationalist movement, encouraging Indians to seek political freedom while valuing their spiritual and intellectual roots.

**77.** (C) A division of subjects for administration between British officials and Indian ministers.
Dyarchy was a system of dual government introduced in the provinces by the Government of India Act of 1919. It involved dividing administrative subjects into two categories: reserved subjects, controlled by the British Governor and his executive council, and transferred subjects, managed by Indian ministers responsible to the legislature. This system was designed to provide a limited degree of self-government while maintaining essential powers with the colonial administration.

**78.** (D) The British focused more on systematic territorial expansion and economic integration than the Portuguese.
While both the Portuguese and British were motivated by trade, their strategies in India differed significantly. The Portuguese primarily established coastal strongholds and focused on controlling maritime trade routes. In contrast, the British shifted from pure commerce to systematic territorial expansion and political administration. This approach allowed the British to integrate the Indian economy more thoroughly with their own, eventually leading to the establishment of a pan-Indian empire.

**79.** (A) A modern-day textbook on the history of British India.
Primary sources are original materials from the period being studied, such as government records, newspapers, and contemporary memoirs. These provide direct evidence of historical events and attitudes. In contrast, modern-day textbooks are secondary sources because they interpret and synthesize information from primary and other secondary materials. While useful for learning, they do not constitute direct primary evidence for historical research on the colonial period.

**80.** (B) Its philanthropic and moderate character, often seeking legislative improvements rather than direct confrontation.
The early phase of the labor and trade union movement in India was characterized by its moderate and humanitarian approach. Many early leaders were social reformers and philanthropists who focused on improving working conditions through appeals to the government for better factory laws. This period lacked militant organizational structures and was more concerned with immediate welfare issues like wages and working hours rather than political revolution.

**81.** (B) Government policies, such as revenue demands and export of food grains, often worsened the impact of famines.
Historical analysis suggests that the severity of famines during British rule was often exacerbated by government policies. Rigid land revenue demands forced peasants to sell food stocks, while the continued export of grains even during shortages worsened local availability. The adherence to laissez-faire principles often delayed relief interventions, highlighting how administrative and economic priorities frequently clashed with the urgent needs of the starving population.

**82.** (A) A woman working for the education and welfare of other women, especially widows.
Pandita Ramabai was a pioneering social reformer who dedicated her life to the upliftment of women in India. She founded several institutions to provide shelter and education for widows

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This was followed by the Battle of Plassey in 1757, which secured British influence in Bengal. Subsequently, the First Anglo-Mysore War took place in the late 1760s, and the annexation of Oudh occurred much later in 1856.

**114.** (D) The North-West Frontier and Afghanistan
The forward policy was a major element of British imperial strategy focused on the northwestern frontier and relations with Afghanistan. Driven by concerns about Russian expansion toward India, the policy aimed to extend British influence and secure strategic areas beyond the existing borders. This proactive approach led to several military interventions and diplomatic negotiations as the British sought to create a buffer zone to protect their Indian empire.

**115.** (C) The perceptions, attitudes, and social realities of the time as depicted by artists and writers.
Historians using creative literature and painting as sources are primarily interested in the social and cultural dimensions of the past. These works reveal the subjective experiences, values, and social tensions of people living during the colonial period. By analyzing the themes and perspectives presented by writers and artists, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of how different sections of society perceived and responded to British rule.

**116.** (B) These Acts were designed to transfer all power to Indians immediately.
The constitutional reforms between 1909 and 1935 introduced limited representative elements but were not intended to transfer full power to Indians immediately. Instead, they were designed to manage nationalist demands while maintaining ultimate British control through various safeguards and communal divisions. Measures like separate electorates and dyarchy provided some role for Indians in administration but ensured that essential powers remained with the colonial government.

**117.** (B) Forcing them into agriculture or low-wage labor, leading to poverty.
The destruction of traditional handicrafts and cottage industries under British rule forced millions of artisans to abandon their crafts. With limited opportunities in the slow-growing modern industrial sector, most were pushed into agriculture as landless laborers or small-scale farmers. This shift led to overcrowding in the agrarian sector, falling wages, and widespread poverty, significantly worsening the socio-economic status of the artisan class throughout the colonial period.

**118.** (A) Social reform movement aimed at reforming Hindu society based on the authority of the Vedas.
The Arya Samaj, founded by Dayanand Saraswati, was a major social and religious reform movement within Hinduism. It advocated for a return to the original teachings of the Vedas and rejected later practices such as idolatry and the rigid caste system. The movement aimed to purify Hindu society and promote social equality, education, and national pride through a combination of traditional values and rational reforms.

**119.** (C) Outbreak of the Revolt of 1857 and the perception that the press was fueling the rebellion.
The Licensing Act of 1857 was an emergency measure enacted in response to the massive uprising across northern and central India. The British government believed that the press was instrumental in spreading revolutionary ideas and fueling the rebellion. To regain control, the act required all printing presses to obtain licenses and gave the government broad powers to suppress any publications deemed seditious or dangerous to public safety.

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**120.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Key administrative and social policies in British India are associated with specific Governors-General. Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, while Lord William Bentinck was responsible for the abolition of Sati. Lord Dalhousie implemented the controversial Doctrine of Lapse to expand British territories, and Lord Ripon is remembered for introducing the system of local self-government, which aimed to decentralize some administrative responsibilities to local bodies.

**121.** (C) Interpretation of the nature and impact of British rule.
The primary difference between the Imperialist and Nationalist schools of historiography lies in their interpretation of British colonial rule.

**90.** (A) Founding a major nationalist educational institution (Banaras Hindu University).
Madan Mohan Malviya was a prominent leader in the Indian national movement who believed that education was essential for national progress. He is most remembered for his tireless efforts in founding Banaras Hindu University, which aimed to provide modern scientific education while preserving Indian cultural values. His contribution focused on creating institutional foundations that could nurture future generations of nationalist leaders and intellectuals for the country.

**91.** (B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
Historiographical schools provide different frameworks for understanding modern Indian history. The Imperialist school often presented British rule as a modernizing force, while the Nationalist school focused on the people's struggle for freedom. The Marxist approach emphasizes the role of class struggle, and the Subaltern school advocates for writing history from the perspective of the common people, ensuring a more inclusive narrative of the past.

**92.** (B) A modern phenomenon that emerged under the conditions of colonial rule, in opposition to it.
Nationalism in modern India is viewed as a modern phenomenon that arose as a response to colonial exploitation and the introduction of Western ideas. It was not a simple continuation of older loyalties but a new consciousness that developed through shared political struggles and intellectual awakening. The experience of being under foreign rule provided a common ground for diverse communities to unite and demand self-determination as a nation.

**93.** (C) Biographies provide a personal and often subjective viewpoint, while archival materials are official records.
Biographies and memoirs offer valuable personal insights and perspectives on historical events but are often influenced by the author's memory and biases. In contrast, archival materials primarily consist of official government records, reports, and correspondence that reflect the administrative and political functioning of the state. Both sources are essential for historical research, but they must be used together to balance subjective experiences with official documentation.

**94.** (D) Train Indians in the art of governance and reduce the financial burden on the central exchequer.
The introduction of local self-government under the Crown was motivated by both administrative and financial considerations. By granting limited powers to local bodies, the British aimed to involve Indians in managing local affairs, which was seen as a way to improve efficiency and reduce the central government's financial responsibility. While presented as a step toward training Indians in governance, it also served as a tool for administrative convenience.

**95.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Early Indian economic historians like Dadabhai Naoroji and R.C. Dutt were critical of British economic policies. Naoroji's Drain Theory highlighted the systematic transfer of wealth to Britain, while Dutt provided a historical analysis of how colonial policies caused agrarian distress and industrial decline. Contrary to praising British rule, their works formed a powerful intellectual basis for the nationalist movement by documenting the economic exploitation of the country.

**96.** (B) An appeal to "Go back to the Vedas" and a rejection of later accretions like idolatry and the rigid caste system.
Dayanand Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj with the goal of reforming Hindu society by returning to the original teachings of the Vedas. He criticized later social and religious practices such as idolatry and the rigid caste system, which he believed were not supported by the ancient scriptures. His movement combined a revivalist spirit with a rational approach to social reform and modern education for all.

**97.** (B) Newspapers that had a wide circulation and influence among the Indian public.
Popular newspapers in modern India were those that successfully reached a broad audience and played a significant role in shaping public opinion. These publications often disseminated nationalist ideas, discussed social issues, and critiqued colonial policies. Their widespread circulation made them powerful tools for political

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**129.** (B) 2 and 3 only
Oral evidence and creative literature are vital sources for understanding the social and cultural history of modern India. Oral accounts help capture the experiences of marginalized groups who left no written records, while literature and art reflect the lived realities and perceptions of the time. Archival materials are official records, but they primarily provide information on administrative and political history rather than a complete picture of all social dimensions.

**130.** (B) The political fragmentation of India and rivalries among native powers.
British expansion in India was significantly facilitated by the political fragmentation and frequent rivalries among native Indian powers. The lack of a unified political authority and the tendency of regional rulers to seek British support against their neighbors allowed the East India Company to use diplomacy and strategic military interventions effectively. By exploiting these internal divisions, the British were able to gradually establish and consolidate their political dominance.

**131.** (C) Orientalism - Justification for immediate annexation
Orientalism refers to the scholarly study of Eastern cultures by Westerners and was not primarily a justification for immediate annexation. In contrast, concepts like dyarchy, colonialism, and the forward policy are correctly matched with their respective historical meanings. Dyarchy involved provincial dual government, the forward policy related to frontier security, and colonialism described the economic and political control exercised by a foreign power over another territory.

**132.** (B) Britain was enriching itself by draining India's resources and wealth.
The Drain Theory formulated by Dadabhai Naoroji was a foundational critique of British economic policies. It argued that Britain was systematically transferring wealth from India through various mechanisms like salaries, pensions, and trade profits without providing any equivalent return. This wealth transfer was seen as the primary cause of Indian poverty and economic stagnation, directly challenging the colonial narrative that British rule was beneficial to the Indian population.

**133.** (B) Address issues of women's education, social status, and legal rights.
Women's organizations in modern India emerged in response to the social and educational challenges faced by women within a patriarchal society. These groups focused on advocating for female education, improving social status, and securing legal rights such as the right to property and widow remarriage. By creating a collective platform, they aimed to empower women to address their own grievances and participate more effectively in social and national life.

**134.** (C) The Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931
Throughout colonial rule, the British government enacted several laws specifically designed to monitor and control the activities of the press. The Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act of 1931 is an example of such legislation, providing the government with extensive powers to suppress publications deemed revolutionary or seditious. These measures reflected the administration's continued efforts to curb nationalist propaganda and manage public political discourse during periods of unrest.

**135.** (C) The struggle between different economic classes.
The Marxist school of historiography interprets history primarily through the perspective of class struggle and the relationship between different socio-economic groups. It emphasizes how the mode of production and economic structures shape political developments and ideologies. By analyzing modern Indian history through this lens, Marxist historians highlight the impact of colonial economic policies on different classes and the underlying social conflicts that influenced the nationalist movement.

**136.** (C) A period of intense rivalry and four major wars.
The relationship between the British and the Mysore state under Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan was characterized by intense military rivalry and four major Anglo-Mysore wars. These rulers offered formidable resistance to British territorial expansion in southern India. The conflicts ended

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of the agrarian sector and increasing the overall poverty and vulnerability of the rural population.

**106.** (B) A social reform movement focused on women's welfare and education.
Keshav Dhondo Karve was a prominent social reformer who dedicated his life to improving the lives of women and widows in India. He established educational institutions specifically for girls and founded a shelter and school for widows to provide them with independence through training. His work culminated in the founding of the first women's university, making him a central figure in the history of female education and empowerment in Maharashtra.

**107.** (D) A discriminatory act aimed at curbing the freedom of the Indian-language press.
The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was a discriminatory law designed to suppress political criticism in Indian-language newspapers. It provided the government with extensive powers to censor publications while exempting English newspapers from the same restrictions. This act was seen as an attempt to silence the voices of the masses and limit the spread of nationalist sentiment, highlighting the colonial administration's fear of public opinion.

**108.** (A) Divide and rule.
Communalism was used by the British administration as part of their strategy of divide and rule to maintain political control. By emphasizing and institutionalizing religious differences through policies like separate electorates, the colonial government sought to prevent the formation of a unified nationalist front. This strategy encouraged different communities to view their interests as antagonistic, thereby weakening the collective challenge to British authority in the Indian subcontinent.

**109.** (C) The desire to control the cotton and opium trade routes and consolidate their power in western and central India.
British ambition to control Maratha territories was driven by both economic and political motives. The Maratha-held regions were strategically important for controlling lucrative trade routes for cotton and opium. Additionally, the decline of the Maratha confederacy presented an opportunity for the British to eliminate their major rival and consolidate their political authority over vast areas of western and central India, securing their dominance in the region.

**110.** (A) An All-India Federation and provincial autonomy.
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a significant constitutional reform that proposed the establishment of an All-India Federation comprising both British provinces and princely states. It also introduced provincial autonomy, giving elected Indian ministers greater control over provincial administration. While it provided for some degree of self-government, the act maintained ultimate authority with the British through the Viceroy's extensive powers and other legislative safeguards.

**111.** (D) The management of currency, exchange rates, and credit by the colonial government.
Monetary policy in British India referred to the colonial government's management of currency, exchange rates, and the credit system. Nationalists criticized these policies for being designed primarily to serve British economic interests, such as facilitating the transfer of wealth and ensuring favorable trade conditions for British manufacturers. The manipulation of exchange rates was seen as a key mechanism that disadvantaged Indian producers and contributed to the overall economic drain.

NODIA

**112.** (B) The introduction of Western democratic and nationalist ideals which eventually challenged colonial authority.
One of the most significant long-term impacts of British education policy was the introduction of Western intellectual traditions, including the ideals of democracy, equality, and nationalism. The new class of English-educated Indians absorbed these concepts and eventually used them to articulate critiques of colonial rule and demand political rights. This intellectual awakening became a powerful force that fueled the nationalist movement and directly challenged the legitimacy of British authority.

**113.** (A) 3, 4, 1, 2
The history of British expansion in India involves a series of key events across several centuries. The establishment of the first French factory at Surat occurred in the seventeenth century.

its rigid adherence to laissez-faire economic principles. This ideology discouraged direct state intervention in the food market, which frequently delayed relief efforts and limited the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Consequently, policies that prioritized market mechanisms over urgent humanitarian needs were seen as worsening the impact of these disasters and contributing to widespread suffering and loss of life.

**145.** (B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
Modern Indian history is shaped by the significant contributions of various leaders and reformers. Jyotiba Phule was a pioneer in the anti-caste movement and women's education, while Dadabhai Naoroji formulated the Drain Theory. Annie Besant played a key role in the Theosophical Society and the Home Rule Movement, and Madan Mohan Malviya is most remembered for his tireless efforts in founding the Banaras Hindu University.

**146.** (B) A system of double government where administrative subjects were divided into 'reserved' and 'transferred' lists.
Dyarchy was a system of dual government introduced in the provinces of British India through the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms. It divided provincial subjects into two categories: reserved subjects, such as finance and police, controlled by the British Governor, and transferred subjects, such as education and health, managed by Indian ministers. This arrangement provided a limited degree of self-government while maintaining essential powers with the colonial administration.

**147.** (C) How ordinary peasants and workers understood and participated in the movement for their own reasons.
A Subaltern perspective on the Khilafat movement would focus on the experiences and motivations of common people rather than top-level political negotiations. This approach explores how ordinary peasants and workers interpreted the movement's message and how their participation reflected their own social and economic concerns. By centering the voices of the marginalized, Subaltern history provides a more diverse and complex understanding of popular mobilization during this period.

**148.** (B) Increased direct control and accountability of Indian administration to the British Parliament.
The transition from Company to Crown rule in 1858 led to significant administrative changes, including the transfer of power to the British monarch. This resulted in more direct oversight of the Indian administration by the British Parliament through the Secretary of State for India. While it aimed to increase accountability and improve governance following the 1857 revolt, the basic colonial and exploitative economic policies remained largely unchanged under the new system.

**149.** (B) The process of industrialization and the creation of a wage-earning class.
The labor and trade union movement in India emerged as a direct consequence of industrialization and the growth of factory-based production. As a new class of wage-earning workers developed in urban centers, they faced harsh working conditions, long hours, and low wages. These shared grievances led to the formation of organizations aimed at collectively bargaining for better rights and protections, marking the beginning of organized labor activism.

**150.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Savitribai Phule were key figures in the nineteenth-century social reform movement. Roy advocated for a synthesis of Western and Indian learning to modernize society, while Savitribai Phule was a pioneer in the education of women and lower castes. Swami Vivekananda, however, was a spiritual leader and social philosopher rather than an economic historian, though his teachings influenced national pride and social consciousness.

**151.** (C) Control, censor, and suppress critical nationalist publications.
Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the British administration enacted several press acts designed to monitor and regulate public communication. These measures were primarily aimed at suppressing political dissent and censoring nationalist publications that criticized colonial rule. By controlling the dissemination of ideas, the government sought to limit the influence of the press and prevent

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**196.** (A) A struggle led by the bourgeoisie to serve its own class interests.
Marxist historiography often interprets the Indian nationalist movement as being primarily led and shaped by the interests of the emerging middle class and capitalists. According to this perspective, these elite groups mobilized the masses against colonial rule to secure political power and an economic environment that would benefit their own class. This analysis highlights the internal class dynamics and the economic motivations that influenced the nature and goals of the freedom struggle.

**197.** (A) Obtaining trading rights and establishing factories.
The expansion of British rule in Bengal began gradually with the East India Company obtaining trading rights and establishing commercial outposts, known as factories, along the coast. These initial economic activities provided the foundation for the company's growing influence in the region. Over time, the need to protect these commercial interests led to political entanglements and military conflicts, eventually resulting in the establishment of direct political control over the entire province.

**198.** (A) The British were the ultimate and supreme power in India, and the states were subordinate.
The concept of paramountcy established that the British Crown was the ultimate and supreme authority in India, to which all princely states were subordinate. While these states maintained a degree of internal autonomy, they were not fully sovereign and were subject to British influence in their external relations and internal administration. This relationship ensured that the British could maintain overall control over the entire subcontinent while preserving the existing regional political structures.

**199.** (C) A man-made phenomenon resulting from colonial policies.
The economic critique formulated by early nationalists like Dadabhai Naoroji and R.C. Dutt argued that Indian poverty was a man-made condition caused by colonial policies. They highlighted the systematic drain of wealth, the decline of traditional industries, and high land revenue demands as the primary factors that impoverished the country. This perspective challenged the colonial idea that poverty was due to climate or overpopulation, focusing instead on the structural exploitation of the Indian economy.

**200.** (D) Women's education and the upliftment of widows.
Keshav Dhondo Karve was a dedicated social reformer whose primary focus was the education and empowerment of women and widows. He established several institutions in Maharashtra to provide girls and widows with modern education and vocational training, aiming to give them social independence and dignity. His lifelong commitment culminated in the founding of the first women's university in India, making him a central figure in the history of social reform and female education.

**201.** (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Modern Indian history is defined by several key concepts and movements. Communalism is an ideology based on antagonistic religious identities, while dyarchy involved the division of provincial subjects. The Khilafat movement was a pan-Islamic protest centered on the Turkish Caliph, and Orientalism refers to the academic study of Eastern cultures by Western scholars. These diverse elements collectively shaped the political and social landscape of the subcontinent during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**202.** (C) Nascent, but growing, with periodic government attempts at regulation.
Before the 1857 uprising, the Indian press was in its early stages but was growing rapidly with both English and vernacular publications. During this period, the British administration periodically introduced regulations and licensing requirements to monitor and control the content of newspapers. These measures reflected the government's recognition of the press's increasing influence and its desire to maintain a degree of control over public discourse as the political environment evolved.

**203.** (A) Write history from the perspective of the masses and marginalized groups.
The Subaltern school of historiography aims to write the history of modern India by focusing on the experiences and agency of common people, such as peasants, workers, and tribal communities. By centering these marginalized

NODIA

that the traditional focus on elite leaders and political structures is insufficient. It emphasizes that the freedom struggle was also shaped by the independent consciousness and actions of common people, including peasants and tribal groups. By incorporating these voices, Subaltern historians seek to provide a more comprehensive and inclusive understanding of the diverse social forces that resisted colonial rule.

**160.** (B) Administrative and financial expediency.
The establishment of local self-government under the British Crown was primarily driven by administrative and financial needs. By devolving some responsibilities to local bodies, the government aimed to improve efficiency and reduce the financial burden on the central exchequer. While it also served to manage the demands of the growing educated elite, the underlying motivation was to create a more manageable administrative structure that utilized local participation for imperial convenience.

**161.** (B) The decline of traditional Indian manufacturing in the face of competition from British goods is the essence of deindustrialization. Deindustrialization in modern Indian history is directly related to the destruction of traditional cottage industries and handicrafts. This decline was caused by the influx of cheap, machine-made textiles from Britain, which the local artisans could not compete with. Consequently, the systematic loss of these traditional manufacturing sectors transformed India from an exporter of finished products to a primary source of raw materials and a market for foreign goods.

**162.** (B) Initiated reforms in Hindu society and advocated for a modern, rational approach to social and religious questions.
Raja Ram Mohan Roy is considered the father of modern India due to his pioneering efforts in social and religious reform. He founded the Brahmo Samaj and campaigned vigorously against practices like Sati and idolatry, advocating for a rational interpretation of traditional scriptures. His efforts to synthesize Western and Eastern learning and his commitment to modernization laid the intellectual foundations for the regenerative movements that followed throughout the nineteenth century.

**163.** (B) The 1857 Act applied to all press, while the 1878 Act specifically targeted the vernacular press.
A significant difference between the Licensing Act of 1857 and the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was their scope. The 1857 act was a general emergency measure that regulated all types of printing presses during the rebellion. In contrast, the 1878 act was specifically designed to curb dissent in the Indian-language press while leaving English newspapers unregulated. This targeted approach highlighted the colonial government's particular concern about the spread of nationalist ideas among the vernacular-speaking masses.

**164.** (A) Justify their intervention in the affairs of princely states.
The doctrine of paramountcy was used by the British to assert their supreme authority over the Indian princely states. It provided a flexible legal and political framework that justified British intervention in the internal administration of these states whenever it served imperial interests. By maintaining that the sovereignty of native rulers was subordinate to the Crown, the British ensured they could control and manage regional powers without direct territorial annexation.

**165.** (C) The political vacuum created by the decline of the Mughal Empire in western and central India.
The conflict between the British and the Marathas was primarily for political supremacy in western and central India. As the Mughal Empire declined, the Maratha confederacy emerged as a major regional power. The British aimed to fill the resulting political vacuum and eliminate the Marathas as their main rival for control over the subcontinent. This competition led to a series of wars that eventually resulted in British dominance in the region.

**166.** (B) The introduction of 'dyarchy' in the provincial governments.
A major feature of the Government of India Act of 1919 was the introduction of dyarchy in the provinces. This system divided provincial subjects into reserved and transferred categories, providing a limited degree of representative government. While it allowed Indian ministers to manage some departments like health and education, the British Governor maintained control over essential areas like finance and

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hierarchies. Their efforts aimed to empower the oppressed through education and social awareness, providing a powerful alternative to the elite-led reform movements of the period.

**182.** (B) Reflects the subjective experiences, social critiques, and cultural shifts of the time.
Creative literature from the colonial period is a valuable historical source because it provides insights into the lived experiences and cultural attitudes of the time. Novels, poems, and other works often contain social critiques and reflect the changing mindsets of people as they responded to British rule and internal social changes. These subjective accounts complement official records by revealing the emotional and intellectual dimensions of history that administrative documents often overlook.

**183.** (C) Establishing the system of separate electorates, which sowed the seeds of communal politics.
The constitutional reforms of 1909, also known as the Morley-Minto reforms, are particularly significant for introducing the system of separate electorates based on religion. By allowing specific communities to elect their own representatives, these changes institutionalized religious identity as a key factor in Indian politics. This development is often seen as having sowed the seeds of communalism, which complicated the nationalist movement and influenced the future political trajectory of the subcontinent.

**184.** (C) The influx of cheap, machine-made goods from Britain and adverse colonial policies.
The decline of traditional cottage industries in India was primarily caused by the systematic impact of colonial economic policies. The influx of cheap, mass-produced textiles from Britain, supported by favorable tariffs for British goods, made it impossible for Indian artisans to compete. This destruction of local manufacturing forced many into agriculture, leading to deindustrialization and worsening the economic status of millions of skilled workers across the country.

NODIA

**185.** (A) Philanthropists and nationalists who sought to improve workers' conditions through legal and moderate means.
The early phase of the trade union movement in India was dominated by philanthropic and nationalist leaders who focused on improving the conditions of industrial workers through moderate methods. These leaders often used petitions and sought legislative reforms to address issues such as working hours and safety. This humanitarian approach lacked the organized and militant character that developed later, reflecting the initial stages of workers' mobilization within the broader context of social and political change.

**186.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The British East India Company's success over the French was due to its superior financial and naval resources and more independent organizational structure. As a private enterprise with significant government support, the British company possessed greater commercial dynamism compared to the state-controlled French company. This independence, combined with naval supremacy, allowed the British to effectively manage their resources and eliminate their main European rival for political and economic dominance in the Indian subcontinent.

**187.** (C) Issues like Sati, widow remarriage, and education were central to the reformist agenda.
During the nineteenth century, social reform movements in India placed a significant emphasis on improving the status of women by addressing oppressive traditional practices. Key issues such as the abolition of Sati, the promotion of widow remarriage, and the expansion of female education were central to the agendas of many reformers. These efforts aimed to challenge patriarchal social structures and ensure that women had greater opportunities for education and social participation.

**188.** (A) Non-Aligned Movement
British imperial policy in India was characterized by various administrative and diplomatic strategies such as the Subsidiary Alliance, the Doctrine of Lapse, and the concept of paramountcy. These were used to expand and consolidate colonial control over the subcontinent. In contrast, the Non-Aligned Movement was a cold war-era

The decline of traditional handicrafts, caused by competition from machine-made goods and the loss of patronage, resulted in many artisans losing their primary source of income. This process, often called pauperization, forced many into the agricultural sector as landless laborers, significantly worsening their economic status and overall quality of life during the colonial period.

**175.** (A) Stimulate a sense of pride in Indian culture and philosophy.
The Theosophical Society, under the leadership of Annie Besant, played a significant role in the cultural and spiritual regeneration of modern India. By promoting the study of ancient Indian philosophy and religions, the society encouraged educated Indians to feel a sense of pride in their heritage. This cultural awakening provided moral and intellectual support to the nationalist movement, helping to foster a collective identity based on shared historical and spiritual roots.

**176.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Significant British policies and constitutional changes in India are characterized by specific features and consequences. The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 involved the censorship of Indian-language newspapers. The Government of India Act of 1919 introduced dyarchy in the provinces. The Subsidiary Alliance led to the loss of sovereignty for Indian states in defense and foreign policy, while the Doctrine of Lapse resulted in the annexation of several princely states.

**177.** (B) Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress linked it with the Non-Cooperation Movement.
The Khilafat movement became a major national issue in India when it was integrated with the broader struggle for independence. By linking the grievances of Indian Muslims regarding the Caliphate with the Non-Cooperation Movement, Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress fostered significant Hindu-Muslim unity against British rule. This alliance mobilized diverse sections of society and expanded the base of the nationalist movement across the country for several years.

**178.** (C) The emergence of a national consciousness and the unified struggle against colonial oppression.
A historian using a Nationalist historiographical approach would primarily focus on the development of a shared national identity and the collective effort to overthrow colonial rule. This perspective emphasizes the roles of prominent leaders and political organizations in mobilizing the masses and articulating the demand for independence. By highlighting the struggle against oppression, Nationalist history aims to present an inspiring narrative of the people's collective aspiration for national sovereignty.

**179.** (A) Effectively administer newly conquered territories and collect revenue.
The evolution of the provincial administrative structure under the East India Company was driven by the need for efficient governance and revenue collection. As the British expanded their territorial control, they established distinct provincial units with their own administrative and legal systems to manage the diverse regions effectively. This development was intended to ensure that newly acquired territories were properly integrated into the colonial state to maximize economic and political control.

**180.** (B) The stagnation of the agrarian economy and increased poverty.
British economic policies, including rigid land settlements and the commercialization of agriculture, collectively resulted in the stagnation of the agrarian economy. These measures often prioritized revenue collection and the needs of British industries over the welfare of Indian peasants. Consequently, many farmers faced increasing debt and poverty, as traditional structures were disrupted and the agricultural sector failed to produce the wealth necessary to improve the lives of the rural population.

**181.** (B) A radical challenge to caste and gender hierarchy from within the lower castes.
The social reform work of Jyotiba and Savitribai Phule in Maharashtra represents a radical and transformative movement initiated from within the marginalized sections of society. By establishing schools for women and lower castes and founding the Satyasodhak Samaj, they directly challenged the existing caste and gender

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police. This dual structure aimed to manage nationalist demands while preserving colonial authority.

**167.** (B) The inadequate and poorly implemented factory laws spurred workers to organize into unions to demand better conditions.
The development of the labor and trade union movement was closely linked to the early attempts at factory legislation in India. Because the initial factory laws were often limited in scope and lacked effective enforcement, industrial workers continued to face harsh conditions and low wages. These failures prompted workers to organize into unions to collectively demand better protections and more comprehensive reforms, marking the beginning of organized labor activism in the industrial sector.

**168.** (C) Popularized the demand for 'Home Rule' and bridged the gap between moderates and extremists.
Annie Besant made significant contributions to Indian nationalism through her leadership in the Home Rule movement. She successfully popularized the demand for self-government within the British Empire and played a crucial role in reuniting the moderates and extremists within the Indian National Congress. Her ability to mobilize public opinion and bridge political divides helped strengthen the nationalist cause during a critical period of the freedom struggle.

**169.** (C) Jawaharlal Nehru's 'An Autobiography'.
Jawaharlal Nehru's autobiography is a primary example of biographies and memoirs as historical sources. It provides a personal account of his experiences and perspectives on the nationalist movement and the political developments of the early twentieth century. While such personal narratives are subjective and reflect the author's own biases, they offer valuable insights into the motivations and lived experiences of key figures that official government records cannot provide.

**170.** (B) It was endorsed and accepted by the British government.
The Drain Theory formulated by Dadabhai Naoroji argued that Britain was systematically transferring wealth from India, contributing to its poverty. While this theory was a central component of the nationalist economic critique and gained wide support among Indians, it was never endorsed or accepted by the British government. Colonial officials consistently rejected the idea of a wealth drain, maintaining that British rule was providing administrative and economic benefits to the Indian people.

NODIA

**171.** (A) Russia
The forward policy was an expression of British imperial concerns regarding the perceived threat from Russia toward the Indian subcontinent. Throughout the nineteenth century, the British feared that Russian expansion in Central Asia would eventually challenge their control over India. This proactive strategy aimed to secure the northwestern frontiers and extend influence into neighboring regions, such as Afghanistan, to create a buffer zone against any potential Russian advance.

**172.** (B) The death of Tipu Sultan and the imposition of a subsidiary alliance on the restored Wodeyar dynasty.
The prolonged conflicts between the British and Mysore culminated in the fourth Anglo-Mysore war in 1799. This decisive battle resulted in the death of Tipu Sultan and the fall of Seringapatam. Following their victory, the British dismantled Tipu's kingdom, annexed significant portions of it, and restored the ancient Wodeyar dynasty to a reduced territory under the terms of a subsidiary alliance, effectively subordinating the state to British control.

**173.** (A) The exclusion of Indians from higher posts.
The Indian Civil Service, established under the Crown, was often characterized as the steel frame of British administration. It provided a highly organized and centralized bureaucracy that ensured efficient governance and the protection of imperial interests. However, for much of its history, the service was marked by racial exclusion, as higher-level administrative positions were reserved almost exclusively for British personnel, limiting Indian participation to lower-ranking roles.

**174.** (C) Their displacement and loss of livelihood, a process known as pauperization.
The changing socio-economic condition of artisans during British rule led to their widespread displacement and impoverishment.

diplomatic policy adopted by independent India and other nations to remain neutral between major global power blocs, unrelated to British colonial policies.

**189.** (B) Creating a body of knowledge that made India easier to govern and control.
While Orientalism involved scholarly research into Indian culture and languages, it often served an imperial purpose by providing the British with the information needed to govern effectively. By codifying laws, studying social structures, and documenting local customs, Orientalist scholars created a body of knowledge that facilitated colonial administration. This academic work helped the British manage the diverse Indian population by understanding and sometimes manipulating existing social and legal frameworks to suit colonial needs.

**190.** (B) The death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the subsequent political instability in the Punjab.
The stable relationship between the British and the Sikh kingdom deteriorated following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839. His passing led to a period of intense political instability and succession conflicts within the Punjab administration. This situation provided an opportunity for the British to intervene to secure their northwestern frontier, eventually leading to two Anglo-Sikh wars and the final annexation of the strategic region into the British Empire.

**191.** (B) Function as a key instrument of coercion and control for the colonial state.
The police system established by the British in India was primarily designed to serve the needs of the colonial administration rather than the local population. Its main function was to maintain order, suppress dissent, and ensure the authority of the state across the empire. By providing a centralized and hierarchical instrument of coercion, the police played a vital role in consolidating British control and managing the diverse and often restive Indian society.

**192.** (B) 1 and 3 only
British economic policies significantly impacted India through the transfer of wealth, as described by the Drain Theory, and the process of deindustrialization, which led to the decline of traditional manufacturing. While the commercialization of agriculture integrated India into the global market, it often disadvantaged small peasants who became vulnerable to price fluctuations and debt. These policies collectively reshaped the Indian economy to serve British industrial and financial interests over local welfare.

**193.** (A) The Banaras Hindu University
Madan Mohan Malviya was a prominent nationalist leader and educator who dedicated his life to national service and social reform. He is most famously associated with the founding of Banaras Hindu University in 1916. His goal was to establish an institution that would combine modern scientific education with Indian cultural and ethical values to prepare future generations for leadership and contribute to the overall progress of the nation.

**194.** (B) Fear of the growing influence of nationalist ideas spread through the Indian press.
The various press acts passed by the British administration, such as the Vernacular Press Act, were driven by the government's concern about the rising influence of the nationalist movement. The colonial authorities feared that the Indian press was successfully disseminating anti-British ideas and mobilizing public opinion against colonial rule. By enacting restrictive laws, the administration sought to censor critical voices and control the flow of information to maintain political stability and authority.

**195.** (A) The common experience of colonial subjugation and the spread of modern ideas.
Nationalism in modern India developed as a response to the shared experience of colonial rule and the influx of modern ideas of democracy and equality. The systemic exploitation and political subordination faced by different communities provided a common ground for unity. This collective consciousness was further strengthened by the spread of modern education and the role of the press, which helped articulate national grievances and foster a sense of shared destiny.

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to reconstruct the complex social, political, and economic developments of the colonial period.

**211.** (C) Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.
The constitutional changes of 1919, which introduced the system of dyarchy in the provinces, were a result of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms. These reforms were intended to address growing nationalist demands by providing a limited degree of self-government while maintaining essential powers with the colonial administration. By dividing provincial subjects into reserved and transferred categories, the British aimed to manage the transition toward representative institutions while ensuring the overall stability and security of their empire in India.

**212.** (A) Increased pressure on land and agriculture as the primary source of livelihood.
The decline of traditional handicrafts and the process of deindustrialization under British rule had profound consequences for the Indian economy. As millions of artisans lost their livelihoods due to competition from machine-made goods, they were forced to turn to agriculture for survival. This led to a significant increase in pressure on land and the fragmentation of holdings, resulting in overcrowding in the agrarian sector and worsening the overall poverty and economic stagnation in rural areas.

**213.** (B) Religious and social reform within Hinduism.
Dayanand Saraswati and the Arya Samaj made significant contributions to the religious and social reform of Hindu society during the nineteenth century. By advocating for a return to the Vedas and rejecting practices like idolatry and the rigid caste system, they sought to modernize Hinduism and promote social equality. Their efforts focused on providing education and fostering a sense of national pride, helping to regenerate society through a combination of traditional values and rational reforms.

**214.** (A) Political and economic domination and exploitation.
Colonialism fundamentally describes a relationship where one nation establishes political and economic control over another territory for its own benefit. This system involves the systematic exploitation of the colony's resources, labor, and markets to enrich the metropole. Under colonial rule, the social and economic structures of the subordinate territory are often restructured to serve the interests of the ruling power, resulting in the political subjugation and overall underdevelopment of the colonized society.

**215.** (A) Superior naval strength, better financial organization, and state support.
The British success in defeating other European rivals in India was primarily due to their superior naval strength and more effective financial and organizational structures. As a private company with significant government support and vast resources, the British East India Company could sustain long-term military campaigns and administrative interventions. This combination of naval dominance and commercial dynamism eventually allowed them to eliminate French and Dutch competition and consolidate their political authority across the subcontinent.

**216.** (B) The establishment of High Courts in the provinces.
Under the British Crown, the administration of the judiciary saw the establishment of High Courts in the various provinces to create a more formal and centralized legal system. This development aimed to provide a structured hierarchy of courts and introduce standardized legal procedures across the empire. While these reforms integrated British legal principles with existing local laws, the system often maintained a degree of racial bias, reflecting the broader political and social inequalities of colonial rule.

**217.** (B) Manipulating exchange rates and council bills to facilitate the 'Drain of Wealth'.
Nationalists criticized the colonial government's monetary policy for being designed to serve British economic interests at the expense of India. They argued that the manipulation of exchange rates and the use of council bills facilitated the systematic transfer of wealth from India to Britain. These policies were seen as key mechanisms that disadvantaged Indian producers and contributed to the overall economic drain, highlighting the exploitative nature of British financial management in the subcontinent.

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groups, Subaltern historians seek to provide a more inclusive and diverse narrative that challenges traditional elite-centered accounts. This approach explores how those often ignored by mainstream history participated in and influenced social and political developments during the colonial period.

**204.** (B) The loss of sovereignty for the participating Indian state.
The Subsidiary Alliance was a diplomatic and military system that effectively led to the loss of sovereignty for many Indian states. By accepting British military protection and control over their foreign policy, participating rulers became subordinate to British authority. This arrangement allowed the British to expand their influence and maintain their military dominance at the expense of the native states, while ensuring the political compliance of major regional powers throughout the subcontinent.

**205.** (B) Gradual consolidation and centralization of British authority.
The evolution of the administrative structure between 1773 and 1853 was a process of gradual consolidation and centralization of British authority in India. Through various acts of Parliament, the powers of the Governor-General were strengthened, and the administration of different presidencies was brought under more unified control. This centralization aimed to create a more efficient and reliable government structure to manage the expanding territories and secure the political and economic interests of the British Empire.

**206.** (C) Cycle of debt that peasants were trapped in with moneylenders and the state.
Rural indebtedness in British India describes the persistent cycle of debt faced by many peasants due to high land revenue demands and the lack of institutional credit. To meet government requirements and purchase agricultural inputs, farmers often had to borrow from private moneylenders at exorbitant interest rates. Combined with frequent crop failures and price crashes, this situation made it nearly impossible for many to escape debt, leading to widespread poverty and economic vulnerability in the rural areas.

**207.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Jyotiba and Savitribai Phule were pioneering social reformers in Maharashtra who focused on challenging the oppressive caste hierarchy and advocating for social equality. They believed that education was the key to empowerment and established schools specifically for women and marginalized lower castes. By founding the Satyasodhak Samaj and working tirelessly for these causes, they initiated a radical movement that laid the foundations for modern social justice and educational opportunities for all.

NODIA

**208.** (A) Suppress dissent and nationalist criticism of colonial rule.
The various press acts enacted by the British administration, such as the Vernacular Press Act, were primarily designed to curb the growing nationalist movement and suppress public criticism of colonial rule. The government feared that the dissemination of anti-British ideas through the press would mobilize the masses and destabilize their authority. By implementing restrictive measures and censorship, the colonial state sought to control public discourse and limit the spread of revolutionary and patriotic sentiments.

**209.** (C) Lord Dalhousie
The Doctrine of Lapse is most closely associated with the viceroyalty of Lord Dalhousie, who used the policy extensively to expand British territorial control in India. By refusing to recognize adopted heirs, he was able to annex several princely states, including Satara, Jhansi, and Nagpur, when their rulers died without natural successors. This aggressive expansionist policy caused significant resentment among the Indian aristocracy and was a major contributing factor to the outbreak of the 1857 revolt.

**210.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Historical research on modern India relies on a variety of sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of the past. Archival materials offer insights into administrative history, while biographies and memoirs provide personal perspectives on key events and figures. Oral evidence is also crucial for documenting the experiences of those who left no written records. Together, these diverse sources allow historians

the spread of revolutionary and anti-British sentiments among the diverse Indian population.

**152.** (A) Portrayed the East as irrational, despotic, and inferior to the West.
Orientalism as a historiographical perspective involved the Western study of Eastern societies, often through a lens of cultural superiority. Many Orientalist scholars depicted the East as inherently irrational, stagnant, and politically despotic, contrasting it with a supposedly rational and progressive West. This construction of an inferior "Other" served to justify colonial rule by presenting the British as a necessary modernizing and civilizing influence for the Indian subcontinent.

**153.** (A) Expansion through the use of the Subsidiary Alliance followed by annexation on the pretext of misgovernance.
The British relationship with the state of Oudh is a significant example of indirect expansion leading to direct control. Initially, Oudh was brought under British influence through a Subsidiary Alliance, which significantly reduced its military independence. Despite the Nawab's continued loyalty, the British eventually annexed the state in 1856 on the grounds of chronic misgovernance and administrative failure, causing widespread resentment that contributed to the uprising of 1857.

**154.** (B) The establishment of a hierarchy of civil and criminal courts.
The evolution of the judiciary under the East India Company and the British Crown led to the creation of a formal and hierarchical court system. This involved the establishment of district-level courts, provincial courts, and the eventual formation of High Courts. These reforms introduced a more centralized legal structure based on codified laws and the principle of the rule of law, although the system was often marked by racial bias in practice.

**155.** (C) A state-led policy of rapid and balanced industrial growth
The economic history of British India was characterized by deindustrialization, rural indebtedness, and the commercialization of agriculture. However, there was no state-led policy focused on achieving rapid and balanced industrial growth. Instead, colonial economic policies were primarily designed to serve British interests, ensuring that India remained a source of raw materials and a market for British manufactured goods, which hindered the development of a strong domestic industrial sector.

**156.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Social reform movements in the nineteenth century were instrumental in challenging long-standing social evils such as Sati, child marriage, and caste discrimination. Leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jyotiba Phule advocated for modernization, social equality, and the widespread adoption of education. Their efforts initiated a process of internal social regeneration, encouraging Indians to rethink traditional practices and adopt more rational and progressive attitudes toward social and religious questions.

**157.** (C) Sati, child marriage, and enforced widowhood.
The status of women was a central concern for nineteenth-century social reformers, who campaigned vigorously against oppressive traditional practices. They sought to abolish Sati, end the practice of child marriage, and improve the conditions of widows who faced social exclusion. By advocating for legislative reforms and promoting female education, these reformers aimed to transform the social position of women and ensure their greater participation and empowerment in Indian society.

**158.** (A) The opportunities for lucrative trade.
The primary motivation for various European powers to establish a presence in India during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was the prospect of lucrative trade. India was famous for its high-quality spices, textiles, and other commodities that were in great demand in European markets. This commercial interest led to intense competition among the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and British to secure trading posts and control significant maritime routes.

**159.** (B) The history of the freedom struggle is incomplete without considering the contributions and consciousness of the masses.
The Subaltern school of historiography challenges Nationalist narratives by arguing

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**218.** (B) Absorbed Western ideas and then used them to articulate nationalist demands.
The British education policy in India led to the emergence of a new class of educated Indians who were exposed to modern Western ideas of democracy, liberty, and equality. While the colonial administration intended to create a loyal administrative class, these individuals often used their education to articulate nationalist critiques and demand political rights. This intellectual awakening became a powerful force that fueled the freedom movement and provided the leadership necessary to challenge colonial authority.

**219.** (C) The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856
The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act of 1856 was a significant achievement of the nineteenth-century social reform movement. Persistence by reformers like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar led to this legislative intervention, which challenged traditional restrictions on widows. By providing legal recognition for remarriage, the act aimed to improve the social status of women and ensure their greater dignity and social participation, marking an important step in the ongoing struggle for social reform and women's rights.

**220.** (B) It made it mandatory for any press to obtain a license from the government, which could be revoked at any time.
The Licensing Act of 1857 was an emergency measure enacted to control the press during the widespread rebellion. It required all printing presses to obtain a government license, which could be revoked at any time if the publication was deemed seditious or dangerous to public safety. This act provided the colonial administration with extensive powers to monitor and suppress public political discourse, reflecting the government's concern about the spread of revolutionary ideas during a time of crisis.

**221.** (B) People who follow the same religion have secular interests that are different and often opposed to those of people following other religions.
Communalism as an ideology posits that religious identity is the primary factor determining a person's social, economic, and political interests. It suggests that people following the same religion share common interests that are separate and often antagonistic toward those of other religious communities. Historically, this ideology was used to mobilize people along religious lines, often leading to social divisions and political conflicts that were sometimes exploited by the colonial administration for political control.

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**222.** (B) Are often subjective and shaped by the author's personal biases and memory.
Biographies and memoirs are valuable historical sources as they provide personal insights into the lives and perspectives of key figures and common people. However, they must be used with caution because they are inherently subjective and can be shaped by the author's personal biases, memory, and ideological leanings. Historians must analyze these personal narratives alongside other primary sources to develop a more balanced and accurate understanding of the social and political events of the period.

**223.** (B) The successful and long-term application of the Subsidiary Alliance.
The British relationship with the state of Hyderabad is a prominent example of the long-term success of the Subsidiary Alliance. The Nizam was among the first rulers to accept the terms of the alliance, which provided British military protection in exchange for political subordination. This arrangement ensured that Hyderabad remained a loyal and stable ally throughout the colonial period, allowing the British to maintain influence in southern India without the need for direct territorial annexation or conflict.

**224.** (B) An efficient, hierarchical bureaucracy to run the administration and secure British interests.
The establishment of the civil service under British rule aimed to create a professional and hierarchical bureaucracy capable of efficiently managing the administration of the empire. This service was designed to secure British political and economic interests by providing a stable and reliable instrument for revenue collection and law enforcement. While it centralized governance, the service was characterized by racial exclusion for much of its history, reflecting the broader inequalities of the colonial administrative structure.

**239.** (C) Organizing regiments based on the concept of 'martial races' to ensure loyalty.
Following the 1857 revolt, the British reorganized the Indian army based on the concept of 'martial races' to ensure future loyalty and prevent unified rebellions. This policy involved recruiting soldiers from specific communities deemed more loyal and warlike, such as the Sikhs and Gurkhas. By carefully balancing the composition of regiments and avoiding recruitment from areas that had participated in the uprising, the British aimed to create a more reliable and manageable military force for colonial control.

**240.** (A) Cash crop production often replaced local food grain cultivation, thereby significantly reducing regional food security.
The commercialization of agriculture is linked to the occurrence of famines because the shift toward growing cash crops for export often came at the expense of local food production. This reduced the overall food security of various regions, making the population more vulnerable during times of crop failure or economic distress. Consequently, while commercial farming integrated India into the global market, it frequently undermined the subsistence needs of the peasantry and worsened the impact of environmental crises.

**241.** (B) The founding of the Aligarh Movement to promote modern education among Muslims.
Syed Ahmad Khan's contribution is most significantly associated with the Aligarh Movement, which he founded to promote modern and scientific education among Indian Muslims. He believed that the progress of the community depended on embracing Western learning while maintaining their religious identity. By establishing institutions like the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, he sought to prepare Muslims for social and political participation under British rule, fostering a new class of educated and modernized professionals in the community.

**242.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The early trade union movement in India was often led by philanthropists and nationalists because the industrial working class was still in its formative stages. These outside leaders provided the necessary organizational and ideological framework to voice the grievances of workers who lacked their own strong leadership. By using their influence and moderate methods, these early activists helped set the stage for the development of a more organized and independent labor movement that emerged in later years.

**243.** (B) Legislative intervention in a social practice, urged by Indian reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
The abolition of Sati in 1829 is a clear example of legislative intervention in traditional social practices, largely driven by the efforts of Indian reformers. Raja Ram Mohan Roy led a sustained campaign against the practice, arguing that it had no basis in ancient scriptures and was inhumane. His advocacy eventually convinced the British administration to pass the regulation, representing a significant collaboration between social reform movements and the colonial state to address long-standing social evils in India.

**244.** (B) The British eventually shifted their focus from trade to territorial conquest more effectively than the Dutch.
A major difference between the Dutch and British trading companies was their ultimate strategic focus in India. While the Dutch remained primarily focused on the spice trade and their interests in the Indonesian archipelago, the British successfully transitioned from commercial activities to systematic territorial conquest and political administration. This shift allowed the British to build a comprehensive pan-Indian empire and establish long-term political dominance, whereas the Dutch influence remained more localized and commercially centered on specific commodities.

**245.** (B) A modern consciousness of forming a single nation, which was a departure from earlier regional or dynastic loyalties.
Nationalism in modern India was a modern phenomenon characterized by the development of a collective consciousness of forming a single nation. This awareness transcended earlier regional and dynastic loyalties, providing a unified platform for diverse communities to demand political independence. The shared experience of colonial rule and the spread of modern ideas of democracy and liberty were

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**232.** (B) The administrative division of subjects was impractical as ministers lacked control over finances and the civil service.
The system of dyarchy introduced by the Act of 1919 was widely seen as a failure due to its impractical administrative structure. While Indian ministers were given control over some transferred subjects, they lacked authority over the essential areas of finance and the civil service, which remained under the British Governor. This meant that ministers often could not effectively implement their policies, leading to constant frustration and highlighting the limited nature of the representative government provided.

**233.** (B) The British ambition to annex the strategic and fertile region of Punjab.
The primary reason for the British-Sikh wars was the strategic and economic ambition of the British to annex the Punjab region. Following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the resulting political instability in the Sikh kingdom provided an opportunity for British intervention. The Punjab was a fertile and strategically important territory on the northwestern frontier, and its conquest was seen as essential for securing and consolidating British authority over the entire Indian subcontinent.

**234.** (C) Often hesitant, limited in scope, and enacted under pressure from various groups.
The nature of factory law in colonial India reveals that these early attempts at regulation were often limited and hesitant. The British administration frequently enacted such laws under pressure from humanitarian groups in India and industrial interests in Britain, who sought to make Indian production less competitive. Consequently, the laws were often narrow in scope and poorly enforced, providing only limited protections for workers while failing to address the comprehensive needs of the burgeoning industrial labor force.

**235.** (B) Provided a platform for women to articulate their own demands for social and political rights.
The emergence of women's organizations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was significant because they provided a dedicated platform for women to address their own issues. These groups allowed women to articulate their demands for social reform, education, and political rights, moving beyond the male-led movements of the period. By creating a collective voice, they empowered women to participate more directly in social and national life, challenging traditional gender roles and expectations.

**236.** (B) Aimed to silence or "gag" criticism of the government in the Indian language press.
The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was pejoratively called the "Gagging Act" because it was designed to suppress political dissent and silence criticism of British rule in Indian-language newspapers. The act provided the government with extensive powers of censorship, allowing them to shut down publications deemed seditious. By specifically targeting the vernacular press, the colonial administration sought to limit the spread of nationalist ideas among the masses and control the flow of political information.

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**237.** (B) British authority was paramount when it chose to be, allowing it to interfere in states' affairs at will.
Paramountcy was an ambiguous doctrine that essentially established the supreme authority of the British Crown over the Indian princely states. It meant that while the states maintained a degree of internal autonomy, the British claimed the right to intervene in their internal affairs whenever they believed it was necessary for the security or interests of the empire. This relationship ensured that the British maintained overall control and political compliance without the need for constant territorial annexation.

**238.** (B) A necessary step to bring order, good governance, and modernization to a chaotic region.
A historian of the Imperialist school would most likely present the annexation of Indian states as a benevolent and necessary process. This perspective often argued that British rule brought stability, order, and modernization to regions that were otherwise characterized by chaos and inefficient native rule. By portraying annexation as a part of a "civilizing mission," Imperialist historians sought to justify British territorial expansion and emphasize the administrative and social benefits of colonial governance for the Indian subcontinent.

publications that had a limited reach in the vast rural hinterland where traditional norms remained strong. This divide meant that the impact of social reform was more immediate in urban centers than in the more traditional rural areas of the country.

**267.** (B) A focus on immediate economic grievances like wages and working hours.
The early phase of the labor and trade union movement in India was primarily characterized by a focus on immediate economic grievances such as low wages and long working hours. Many early organizations were humanitarian in nature and sought to improve conditions through appeals for better factory laws and moderate advocacy. This initial stage lacked the organizational strength and political objectives that developed later, reflecting the beginning of workers' efforts to collectively address the harsh realities of industrial labor.

**268.** (A) The Age of Consent Act, 1891
The Age of Consent Act of 1891 is a significant example of British legislation influenced by the social reform movement in India. Persistent advocacy by reformers like Behramji Malabari led to the act, which aimed to increase the legal age for the consummation of marriage for girls. This legislative intervention challenged traditional practices and aimed to protect young girls, representing a key achievement in the ongoing effort to reform oppressive social customs and improve the status of women.

**269.** (B) The Western academic study of the East, which often constructed a romanticized or stereotyped image of Eastern societies.
Orientalism refers to the Western academic and scholarly study of Eastern cultures, which often created romanticized or stereotyped images of these societies. While some Orientalist scholars showed great interest in Indian languages and traditions, the perspective often operated within a framework of Western cultural superiority. This field of study provided the colonial administration with essential information about Indian society, helping to maintain administrative and political control by understanding and managing the cultural and social structures of the colonized population.

**270.** (B) Preventing a future large-scale uprising by carefully balancing troop compositions and controlling key assets.
The reorganization of the British Indian Army after the 1857 revolt was primarily aimed at preventing any future large-scale uprising. This involved carefully balancing the composition of Indian and European troops and ensuring that key assets like artillery were kept under European control. By recruiting from communities deemed loyal and avoiding areas that had participated in the rebellion, the British sought to create a more reliable military force that would remain a stable instrument of colonial authority.

**271.** (B) 2 and 3 only
British economic policies significantly impacted India through deindustrialization and the manipulation of monetary policy to facilitate the transfer of wealth. The destruction of cottage industries increased pressure on agricultural land as displaced workers turned to farming. While commercialization integrated India into global markets, it was primarily structured to benefit British industrial needs rather than the small Indian peasant, who often faced greater vulnerability to market fluctuations and increased debt as a result of these changes.

**272.** (C) The abolition of Sati.
Raja Ram Mohan Roy's contribution to improving the status of women is most famously exemplified by his campaign for the abolition of Sati. He worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the inhumanity of the practice and argued that it was not supported by ancient Hindu scriptures. His persistent advocacy eventually convinced the British administration to pass the 1829 regulation, marking a major success for the social reform movement and a significant step toward addressing oppressive social customs in India.

**273.** (B) Control and restrict the freedom of the press.
The Licensing Act of 1857 and the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 were both legislative measures designed to monitor and restrict the freedom of the press in India. These acts provided the colonial government with broad powers to censor content and suppress publications that were deemed critical of British rule or revolutionary. By controlling the dissemination of ideas, the

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crucial in fostering this new identity, which became the driving force behind the Indian struggle for national sovereignty.

**246.** (B) A combination of warfare, diplomacy, and the use of policies like Subsidiary Alliance and Doctrine of Lapse.
The expansion of British rule in India was a complex process that utilized a combination of strategic military campaigns, diplomatic negotiations, and various administrative policies. By fighting major wars and implementing systems like the Subsidiary Alliance and the Doctrine of Lapse, the British were able to gradually annex territories and subordinate native rulers. This multifaceted approach allowed them to manage different regional powers and eventually establish political supremacy over the entire Indian subcontinent during the colonial period.

**247.** (B) Introduce the concept of the rule of law, although it was often applied with a racial bias.
The judiciary established by the British in India aimed to introduce the modern concept of the rule of law through a structured and hierarchical court system. This involved the codification of laws and the formalization of legal procedures to create a more predictable and centralized administration of justice. However, in practice, the system was frequently marked by racial bias, as European subjects often received preferential treatment, reflecting the broader social and political inequalities of the colonial state.

**248.** (B) Negative impact of British land revenue policies and deindustrialization on the Indian economy.
The economic historian R.C. Dutt systematically documented the negative consequences of British colonial policies in his work. He argued that high land revenue demands impoverished the peasantry and that the decline of traditional manufacturing industries led to widespread economic distress. Through his detailed analysis, he highlighted how the colonial economy was structured to serve British interests, providing an intellectual foundation for the nationalist critique of foreign rule and its long-term impact on Indian prosperity and development.

**249.** (C) It led to the complete neglect of modern scientific education.
British education policy in India was designed to create an English-educated class, but it did not lead to the complete neglect of modern scientific education. In fact, many reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy advocated for the introduction of Western science. While the policy successfully fostered ideals of democracy and nationalism among the new intellectual class, its benefits were largely confined to the urban elite, leaving the vast majority of the rural population without access to modern education.

**250.** (B) A tool for political education, mobilization, and critique of colonial rule.
Popular newspapers during the freedom struggle served as essential tools for political education and mobilization across India. These publications provided a platform for critiques of colonial rule and discussed various social and political issues, helping to build a collective national consciousness. By reaching a wide audience, journalism successfully disseminated nationalist ideas and encouraged the public to participate in the movement for independence, making it a powerful instrument for political communication and social change during the colonial period.

**251.** (C) The people of Turkey themselves, under Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, abolished the Caliphate.
The Khilafat movement in India lost its primary relevance and collapsed following political changes in Turkey. In 1924, the people of Turkey, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, decided to modernize their country and formally abolished the Caliphate. This decision removed the central objective of the Indian movement, leading to its eventual decline as the international pan-Islamic issue that had mobilized many Indian Muslims was resolved by the Turkish people themselves.

**252.** (B) Creating an inspiring narrative of the freedom struggle that fostered national pride.
Nationalist historians of modern India are often recognized for creating a cohesive and inspiring narrative of the freedom struggle. Their work emphasized the collective efforts of the Indian people to achieve independence and fostered a sense of national pride and unity. By highlighting the struggle against colonial oppression and

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the roles of prominent leaders, these historians provided an intellectual framework that supported the nationalist cause and helped define the modern identity of the Indian nation.

**253.** (B) The complete dismantling of the Maratha confederacy and the establishment of British supremacy.
The relationship between the British and the Marathas concluded in the early nineteenth century with the final defeat of the Maratha chiefs in a series of wars. This resulted in the complete dismantling of the Maratha confederacy and the establishment of British political supremacy over western and central India. The defeat of their last major regional rival allowed the British to consolidate their control and expand their influence across the vast territories previously managed by the Maratha power.

**254.** (B) A limited grant of power to local bodies with official control and limited franchise.
The system of local self-government introduced under the British Crown was a limited measure that granted some powers to local bodies while maintaining significant official control. These bodies had a restricted franchise and were often subject to the oversight of British officials, ensuring that ultimate authority remained with the colonial administration. While it provided some role for Indians in managing local affairs, it was designed more for administrative convenience and managing elite demands than for establishing true democracy.

**255.** (B) The loss of patronage from native courts and competition from machine-made goods.
The condition of Indian artisans worsened during British rule due to the decline of traditional manufacturing. The loss of patronage from native courts and the aristocracy deprived many of their traditional markets. Additionally, the influx of cheap, machine-made goods from Britain, supported by colonial trade policies, made it impossible for local handicrafts to compete. This led to deindustrialization and forced millions of skilled workers into poverty or low-wage agricultural labor across the country.

**256.** (B) Strength, self-confidence, and service to the nation.
Swami Vivekananda's message to the Indian youth emphasized the importance of individual strength, self-confidence, and a commitment to service to the nation. He believed that the progress of India depended on the character and energy of its people and encouraged them to combine spiritual values with social activism. His teachings helped foster a sense of national purpose and pride, inspiring many to work for social regeneration and the eventual independence of the country during the colonial period.

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**257.** (B) Reveal the mindsets, values, and social tensions of the period that official documents may not.
Creative literature and painting are important historical sources because they provide insights into the social and cultural attitudes of a period. These works reflect the subjective experiences, values, and social tensions felt by people living during the colonial era. By analyzing the perspectives presented by writers and artists, historians can gain a deeper understanding of the emotional and intellectual dimensions of history, complementing the information found in official administrative and political records.

**258.** (A) Annexation
The Doctrine of Lapse was an annexation policy implemented by the British East India Company to expand its territorial control. It stipulated that any princely state under British influence would be annexed if the ruler died without a direct natural heir, refusing to recognize the traditional Indian practice of adoption. This aggressive policy allowed the British to take over several major states, causing widespread resentment among the Indian aristocracy and contributing to the 1857 revolt.

**259.** (A) The salaries and profits of British officials and merchants, and other expenses of the colonial administration being sent to Britain.
The primary reason for the economic drain from India, as described by Dadabhai Naoroji, was the systematic transfer of wealth through various administrative and commercial mechanisms. This included the salaries and pensions of British officials, the profits of British merchants,

and the high cost of maintaining the colonial administration. These resources were sent to Britain without any equivalent return to India, contributing to the country's poverty and preventing domestic capital formation during colonial rule.

**260.** (C) Keshav Dhondo Karve
Keshav Dhondo Karve was a pioneering social reformer dedicated to the cause of female education and the upliftment of widows in India. He established several schools and institutions specifically for girls and founded a shelter to provide widows with social independence through education. His tireless efforts in Maharashtra culminated in the founding of the first women's university, making him a central figure in the movement for gender equality and the empowerment of women during the colonial period.

**261.** (B) The growing power and influence of the nationalist press.
The various press acts passed by the British administration were an indicator of the growing power and influence of the nationalist press in India. As newspapers increasingly disseminated anti-colonial ideas and mobilized public opinion, the government responded with restrictive legislation and censorship to control the flow of information. These measures reflected the administration's concern about the press's role in strengthening the freedom movement and its ability to challenge the legitimacy of British rule across the subcontinent.

**262.** (B) A politically powerful country subordinating another country's economy and society for its own enrichment.
Colonialism is best exemplified by the relationship where a powerful nation establishes political and economic control over another territory for its own benefit. This system involves the systematic subordination of the colony's resources and social structures to serve the interests of the metropole. Under colonial rule, the ruling power exploits the colony's labor and wealth, often leading to the political subjugation and long-term economic underdevelopment of the colonized society to enrich the dominant nation.

**263.** (B) Government files, official correspondence, and gazettes.
A historian analyzing archival materials related to the British administration would examine government files, official correspondence, and gazettes. These documents provide a direct record of the political and administrative functioning of the colonial state, revealing how policies were formulated and implemented. While they primarily reflect the official perspective, they are essential for reconstructing the administrative history and understanding the decisions that shaped the social and economic landscape of modern India during the colonial period.

**264.** (C) Removed their main European rival for the control of India.
The British victory over the French in the Carnatic Wars was a crucial turning point in Indian history as it eliminated their main European rival for control of the subcontinent. These conflicts established British military and political dominance in southern India, allowing the East India Company to focus on further territorial expansion and consolidation without significant interference from other European powers. This success paved the way for the eventual establishment of a pan-Indian British empire over the following century.

**265.** (D) Inamdar Settlement
The British administration introduced several major land settlement systems in India, including the Permanent Settlement, the Ryotwari system, and the Mahalwari settlement, to manage revenue collection. These policies were designed to maximize income for the colonial state and were implemented across different regions. While other forms of land grants and tenures existed, the Inamdar settlement was not one of the standardized systems used by the British to organize the agrarian economy and collect revenue in the subcontinent.

**266.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Social reform movements in the nineteenth century were often concentrated among the urban, educated middle and upper classes because these groups had greater access to modern education and print media. The reformers' messages were disseminated through associations and

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**281.** (A) Disband their army and accept a British contingent in their territory.
Under the Subsidiary Alliance system, an Indian ruler was required to disband their own military forces and accept a British contingent within their territory for protection. The state was also responsible for the maintenance of these troops and had to surrender control over its foreign policy to the British. This arrangement effectively reduced the ruler to a subordinate position and ensured British military and political dominance over the state while preserving its internal administration.

**282.** (B) The story of India's struggle for independence from colonial rule.
The Nationalist interpretation of modern Indian history emphasizes the collective struggle of the Indian people to achieve independence from colonial rule. This perspective focuses on the emergence of a national consciousness and the roles of prominent leaders and organizations in mobilizing the masses. By highlighting the resistance to foreign oppression and the aspiration for national sovereignty, Nationalist history aims to provide an inspiring and unified narrative of the country's journey toward self-determination and political freedom.

**283.** (B) Dyarchy at the Centre and autonomy for the provinces.
The Government of India Act of 1935 was a significant constitutional reform that provided for the introduction of dyarchy at the central level and granted autonomy to the provinces. It allowed elected Indian ministers in the provinces greater control over administration, while maintaining the dual structure at the center. While these changes provided for increased Indian participation in governance, ultimate authority remained with the British through the Viceroy and various legislative safeguards to preserve imperial control.

**284.** (B) High land revenue demand, the need for cash to pay it, and the trap of moneylenders.
Rural indebtedness during British rule became a widespread phenomenon due to the combination of high and rigid land revenue demands and the lack of institutional credit. To pay their taxes in cash regardless of harvest conditions, many peasants were forced to borrow from local moneylenders at exorbitant interest rates. Combined with frequent crop failures and price fluctuations, this situation trapped many farmers in a debilitating cycle of debt, leading to persistent poverty in the rural areas.

**285.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
Key terms in modern Indian history describe different aspects of the colonial impact. Deindustrialization involves the decline of traditional manufacturing, while commercialization represents the shift toward market crops. The drain of wealth refers to the systematic transfer of resources from India to Britain. Finally, paramountcy asserts the ultimate sovereignty of the British Crown over the princely states. These concepts collectively highlight the political and economic subordination of the subcontinent during the period of colonial rule.

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**286.** (C) The right of women to education
In the nineteenth century, social reformers in India sought to improve the status of women by challenging various oppressive traditional practices. They campaigned vigorously against Sati, child marriage, and enforced widowhood, seeking legislative changes and social awareness. While they worked to reform these practices, they strongly supported the right of women to education, viewing it as a vital means of empowerment and modernization. Reformers believed education would enable women to participate more fully in social and national life.

**287.** (C) Annie Besant - Aligarh Movement
Prominent leaders and social reformers in India are associated with specific organizations and movements. Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahmo Samaj, and Dayanand Saraswati established the Arya Samaj. Jyotiba Phule was the founder of the Satyasodhak Samaj. However, Annie Besant was a leader of the Theosophical Society and the Home Rule movement, not the Aligarh Movement, which was led by Syed Ahmad Khan to promote modern education among Indian Muslims during colonial rule.

**288.** (B) Newspapers and journals published in Indian languages.
The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was a discriminatory law specifically designed to target newspapers and journals published in Indian

administration aimed to limit the influence of the nationalist movement and maintain political authority over the diverse Indian population.

**274.** (B) Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919)
The system of dyarchy is associated with the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms embodied in the Government of India Act of 1919. This constitutional change introduced a dual form of government in the provinces, dividing administrative subjects into reserved and transferred categories. While it provided for some representative government by placing some subjects under the control of Indian ministers, essential powers remained with the British Governor, reflecting the limited and controlled nature of the self-government granted to Indians.

**275.** (A) The overemphasis on the role of elite leaders in nationalist and Marxist histories.
The Subaltern school of historiography emerged as a critique of traditional nationalist and Marxist histories, which were seen as overemphasizing the roles of elite leaders and formal political structures. Subaltern historians argue that the independent consciousness and actions of common people, such as peasants and laborers, are essential for a complete understanding of Indian history. By centering these marginalized groups, the school seeks to provide a more inclusive narrative that captures the diverse social forces of the past.

**276.** (C) Alleged misgovernance by the Nawab.
The British annexation of Oudh in 1856 was carried out on the pretext of alleged misgovernance and administrative inefficiency by the Nawab. Despite the ruler's long-standing loyalty, the British justified their intervention by claiming it was necessary for the welfare of the people. This controversial action caused deep resentment among the people of Oudh and was a major factor in the outbreak of the 1857 revolt, as many viewed the annexation as an unjust expansion of power.

**277.** (B) The introduction of a new principle of law and a formal court structure.
The judiciary under the Company and Crown introduced a formal court structure and the principle of the rule of law to the Indian subcontinent. This involved the establishment of a hierarchy of civil and criminal courts and the gradual codification of laws. While these reforms integrated British legal principles with existing local traditions to create a more centralized and predictable legal framework, the system frequently maintained a degree of racial bias in its application during the colonial period.

**278.** (B) India became increasingly dependent on imported manufactured goods.
A major consequence of the deindustrialization of the Indian economy was that the country became increasingly dependent on imported manufactured goods from Britain. The decline of traditional handicrafts and cottage industries meant that local production could no longer meet the needs of the population. This transformation shifted India's role in the global economy to being primarily a provider of raw materials and a captive market for British finished products, resulting in overall economic stagnation and impoverishment.

**279.** (B) The social emancipation of lower castes and women through education.
Jyotiba Phule's efforts were primarily focused on the social emancipation of the lower castes and women in Indian society. He believed that education was the most effective tool for challenging the oppressive caste hierarchy and achieving social equality. By establishing schools and founding the Satyasodhak Samaj, he worked to empower marginalized groups and provide them with the knowledge and institutional support needed to advocate for their rights and dignity within a rigid and discriminatory social structure.

**280.** (B) Fostering a national consciousness and public opinion.
The development of popular newspapers played a crucial role in fostering a national consciousness and shaping public opinion during the colonial period. These publications provided a platform for discussing social and political issues and disseminated nationalist ideas to a broad audience. By critiquing colonial rule and articulating collective grievances, journalism helped mobilize the public and create a sense of shared identity and purpose that was essential for the growth of the movement for independence across India.

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**225.** (C) Nationalist economic critique of colonialism.
The Drain Theory formulated by Dadabhai Naoroji was a central component of the nationalist economic critique of British colonial rule. It argued that Britain was systematically transferring wealth from India through various mechanisms like salaries and trade profits without providing any equivalent return. This critique highlighted the exploitative nature of the colonial economy and provided a powerful intellectual argument for the burgeoning freedom movement by documenting how foreign rule contributed to the poverty of the Indian subcontinent.

**226.** (C) Cultural and religious sphere, by fostering pride in India's past.
The Theosophical Society, under the leadership of Annie Besant, made a significant contribution to the cultural and religious awakening in modern India. By promoting the study of ancient Indian philosophy and religions, the society helped foster a sense of pride and confidence in the country's cultural heritage. This cultural revival provided moral and intellectual support to the nationalist movement, encouraging Indians to seek political independence while valuing their own spiritual and intellectual traditions during colonial rule.

**227.** (A) Became vehicles for the dissemination of nationalist ideas and mobilization of public opinion.
Popular newspapers in modern India played a crucial role in the freedom struggle by serving as platforms for the dissemination of nationalist ideas. These publications reached a wide audience and were instrumental in educating the public about colonial exploitation and mobilizing them against British rule. By articulating collective grievances and discussing social and political issues, popular journalism helped build a national consciousness and provided a powerful tool for political communication and organization across the subcontinent.

**228.** (B) Afghanistan
The forward policy of the British in India was primarily aimed at securing the northwestern frontier and extending influence into Afghanistan. This proactive strategy was driven by concerns about Russian expansion toward the Indian subcontinent throughout the nineteenth century. By creating a buffer zone and ensuring friendly relations with neighboring states, the British sought to protect their empire from any potential external threat, leading to several military interventions and diplomatic negotiations in the region.

**229.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Historiographical schools in India are associated with prominent scholars and core ideas. Vincent Smith is a key figure in the Imperialist school, which often justified colonial rule. R.C. Dutt represents the Nationalist school, focusing on economic critiques. R.P. Dutt is associated with the Marxist approach, emphasizing class struggle, while Ranajit Guha is a leading figure in the Subaltern school, which advocates for writing history from the perspective of the common people.

**230.** (B) Decline of traditional Indian manufacturing due to colonial policies and competition.
The destruction of cottage industries in modern Indian history refers to the systematic decline of traditional manufacturing sectors like textiles and handicrafts. This was caused by the influx of cheap, machine-made goods from Britain and the adverse policies of the colonial state, which favored British industrial interests. Consequently, millions of skilled artisans lost their primary livelihoods, leading to deindustrialization and increasing the overall poverty and dependence of the population on the agrarian economy.

**231.** (B) There was an internal critique and a drive for modernization within Indian society itself.
The social reform movements of the nineteenth century indicate that there was a strong internal drive for modernization and change within Indian society. Leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jyotiba Phule challenged long-standing social evils and sought to reform traditional practices through rational thought and education. Their efforts represented a significant intellectual and social awakening, demonstrating that Indians were actively participating in the regeneration of their own society while responding to modern challenges.

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languages. The British administration aimed to suppress the growing nationalist sentiment and political dissent expressed in these publications, while leaving English-language newspapers unregulated. By controlling the vernacular press, the colonial government sought to limit the influence of nationalist ideas among the masses who primarily relied on their own languages for social and political information and education.

**289.** (B) A movement in India to support the Caliph of Turkey.
The Khilafat movement was a significant protest initiated by Indian Muslims to support the authority of the Ottoman Sultan as the Caliph, the spiritual leader of the global Muslim community. Following the First World War, participants aimed to preserve the religious and political status of the Caliphate. The movement gained national importance when it was linked with the Non-Cooperation Movement, fostering Hindu-Muslim unity against British rule while addressing religious concerns that transcended national borders.

**290.** (C) A 'civilizing mission' to bring progress to a backward society.
The Imperialist school of historiography frequently portrayed British expansion in India as a "civilizing mission" intended to bring progress and good governance to a supposedly backward society. This perspective argued that British rule brought stability, order, and modernization through administrative and legal reforms. By framing colonial expansion as a benevolent and necessary influence, Imperialist historians sought to justify foreign control and emphasize the developmental benefits that British governance allegedly provided to the Indian subcontinent during the period.

**291.** (B) Place all artillery and advanced weaponry under European control.
Following the 1857 revolt, the British reorganized the army in India to ensure firm control and prevent future uprisings. A key policy was to place all artillery and advanced weaponry exclusively under European control to limit the military capabilities of Indian soldiers. This strategy, combined with the careful balancing of troop compositions and recruitment from loyal communities, was intended to make the army a reliable instrument of colonial authority while minimizing any potential threat to British rule.

**292.** (B) Formulation of the 'Drain Theory'.
Dadabhai Naoroji made a major contribution to the understanding of British rule through his systematic formulation of the Drain Theory. He argued that the systematic transfer of wealth from India to Britain through various administrative and commercial mechanisms was the primary cause of Indian poverty. This theory provided a powerful intellectual foundation for the nationalist movement by documenting the exploitative nature of the colonial economy and challenging the British claim that their rule was economically beneficial to India.

**293.** (B) It was instrumental in creating a new intellectual class that led the nationalist movement.
The British education policy primarily aimed to produce an English-speaking class of Indians to assist in colonial administration. However, this new intellectual elite was exposed to modern Western ideas of democracy and liberty, which they eventually used to articulate nationalist demands and critique colonial rule. Consequently, the education system inadvertently provided the leadership necessary for the burgeoning freedom struggle, as educated Indians turned these Western concepts against the very system that had introduced them.

**294.** (C) Promoting women's education and fighting caste discrimination.
Savitribai Phule was a pioneering social reformer whose contributions were most significant in the fields of women's education and the struggle against caste discrimination. Along with her husband, she opened schools for girls and worked tirelessly to provide educational opportunities for marginalized communities. Her efforts were instrumental in challenging social hierarchies and promoting equality, making her a central figure in the movement for social justice and the empowerment of women and the lower castes in modern India.

**295.** (C) The emergence of a large and prosperous class of peasant proprietors across India.
British economic policies in India led to deindustrialization, the commercialization of

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explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**67.** Which of the following is identified as a cause of the split in the Congress at the Surat session in 1907?
(A) Disagreement over the Swadeshi movement's methods.
(B) Conflict over the election of the Congress President.
(C) Both (A) and (B).
(D) Disagreement over participation in the legislative councils.

**68.** The revolutionary organization 'Abhinav Bharat' was founded by:
(A) Bhagat Singh
(B) Rash Behari Bose
(C) Aurobindo Ghosh
(D) V.D. Savarkar and his brother

**69.** Consider the following statements regarding the Gandhi-led movements:
1. The Non-Cooperation Movement aimed at Swaraj through non-violent means.
2. The Civil Disobedience Movement began with the violation of the salt law.
3. The Quit India Movement was characterized by the slogan "Do or Die".

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, and 3

**70.** The development of Leftist ideology in India was influenced by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The Russian Revolution
(B) The British government's industrial policy
(C) The rise of trade unionism
(D) Disenchantment with Gandhian strategies

**71.** The demand for Pakistan was formally adopted by the Muslim League in which session?
(A) Dacca, 1906
(B) Lucknow, 1916
(C) Karachi, 1943
(D) Lahore, 1940

**72.** One of the major tasks of the Constituent Assembly of India was:
(A) To draft a constitution for independent India.
(B) To conduct the first general election.
(C) To negotiate the transfer of power with the British.
(D) To oversee the integration of princely states.

**73.** The Indian foreign policy of Non-Alignment was primarily architected by:
(A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
(C) Jawaharlal Nehru
(D) Lal Bahadur Shastri

**74.** Bakht Khan, a key military leader of the rebel forces in 1857, had prior experience as a Subedar in the army of:
(A) The East India Company
(B) The Mughal Emperor
(C) The Marathas
(D) Ranjit Singh

**75.** The nature of the 1857 revolt is a subject of historical debate. Which viewpoint suggests it was merely a 'sepoy mutiny'?
(A) The Nationalist Historians' view
(B) The Marxist Historians' view
(C) The Subaltern Historians' view
(D) The early British Historians' view

**76.** The rebellion led by Vasudeva Balavant Fadake is significant because it is considered by some historians as:
(A) The first major tribal uprising in Western India.
(B) Precursor to the revolutionary movement in India.
(C) The last attempt to restore Maratha rule.
(D) A purely religious movement against missionaries.

**77.** The 'Tinkathia' system, which was the main issue in the Champaran Satyagraha, meant that peasants had to cultivate indigo on:
(A) Their entire land.
(B) 3/10th of their land.
(C) 3/20th of their land.
(D) Half of their land.

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# CHAPTER 08
# History of Modern India

**1.** Which of the following is identified as a primary cause contributing to the rise of Indian Nationalism?
(A) The promotion of regional languages by the colonial administration.
(B) British administrative and political unification of the Indian subcontinent.
(C) The implementation of diverse economic policies by the Mughal administration.
(D) The establishment of princely states as independent sovereign entities.

**2.** Consider the following statements regarding the social base of Indian Nationalism.
Statement I: The newly educated middle class, including lawyers, doctors, and teachers, formed the backbone of early nationalist leadership.
Statement II: The traditional landed aristocracy and feudal lords were the foremost proponents of modern nationalist ideas.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement II is true, but Statement I is false.

**3.** Which of the following is considered an incorrect statement regarding the nature of the Revolution of 1857?
(A) It began as a sepoy mutiny but quickly spread to the civilian population.
(B) Different groups participated for diverse reasons, including grievances against annexation and land revenue policies.
(C) It was a completely unified and well-coordinated national war of independence from the outset.
(D) It posed a serious challenge to the authority of the British East India Company.

**4.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The introduction of the Enfield rifle was an immediate cause of the 1857 Revolt.
Reason (R): The rifle's cartridges were greased with cow and pig fat, which offended the religious sensibilities of both Hindu and Muslim sepoys.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**5.** What was a significant impact of the Revolution of 1857?
(A) The expansion of the British East India Company's administrative and military powers.
(B) The widespread implementation of the Doctrine of Lapse as a foundational policy.
(C) Transfer of Indian administration from the East India Company to the British Crown.
(D) The immediate granting of complete political independence to the Indian territories.

**6.** Identify the correct pair of a leader of the 1857 Revolt and their primary area of operation.
(A) Nana Saheb - Faizabad
(B) Bakht Khan - Bareilly
(C) Laxmibai - Delhi
(D) Tatya Tope - Arrah

**7.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Hero of 1857)
P. Mangal Pandey
Q. Maulvi Ahmed Ullah
R. Laxmibai
S. Bakht Khan

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**27.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Revolutionary Organisation)
P. Anushilan Samiti
Q. Ghadar Party
R. Abhinav Bharat
S. Hindustan Republican Association
List II: (Associated Region/Activity)
1. Maharashtra
2. Punjab / North India
3. Bengal
4. San Francisco, USA
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

**28.** The ideology of early revolutionary organisations in India primarily involved:
(A) Mobilizing peasants for mass satyagrahas.
(B) Overthrowing British rule through armed struggle and individual heroic acts.
(C) Participating in legislative council elections.
(D) Seeking dominion status through petitions and memorandums.

**29.** Which of the following was NOT a major revolutionary active in the Indian freedom struggle?
(A) Bhagat Singh
(B) Chandrashekhar Azad
(C) Dadabhai Naoroji
(D) Ram Prasad Bismil

**30.** Consider the following statements regarding revolutionary activities:
1. The Ghadar Party was established abroad with the aim of liberating India through armed rebellion.
2. The Kakori Conspiracy case involved a train robbery to fund the activities of the Hindustan Republican Association.
3. The Chittagong Armoury Raid was led by Surya Sen.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, and 3

**31.** Mahatma Gandhi's 'debut in the Indian freedom struggle' is most accurately marked by which event?
(A) The Champaran Satyagraha
(B) The Non-Cooperation Movement
(C) The Dandi March
(D) The Quit India Movement

**32.** The concept of 'Satyagraha', central to Gandhi's philosophy, is best defined as:
(A) Armed resistance against various forms of systemic oppression.
(B) Non-violent protest based on truth and moral force.
(C) A political strategy of diplomatic negotiation and compromise.
(D) A form of passive obedience to all existing administrative laws.

**33.** Which of the following mass movements was called off by Gandhi following the Chauri Chaura incident?
(A) The Civil Disobedience Movement
(B) The Non-Cooperation Movement
(C) The Quit India Movement
(D) The Kheda Satyagraha

**34.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): Subhashchandra Bose resigned from the presidency of the Indian National Congress in 1939.
Reason (R): He had significant ideological differences with Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress working Committee regarding the future course of the freedom struggle.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**35.** The Indian National Army (INA) was originally founded by:
(A) Subhashchandra Bose
(B) Rash Behari Bose
(C) Captain Mohan Singh
(D) General Shah Nawaz Khan

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order that ryots could not be forced to cultivate indigo.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**17.** The Pabna agrarian movement in Bengal was primarily directed against:
(A) The British government's tax policies.
(B) The oppressive practices of the zamindars.
(C) The forced cultivation of commercial crops.
(D) The activities of Christian missionaries.

**18.** What was the primary grievance of the peasants in the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917?
(A) The exploitative Tinkathia system.
(B) High land revenue rates.
(C) The zamindari system.
(D) Salt tax.

**19.** The Kheda Satyagraha (1918) was launched by Gandhiji to support the cause of:
(A) Mill workers demanding higher wages.
(B) Farmers protesting against the import of foreign goods.
(C) Peasants demanding remission of revenue due to crop failure.
(D) Landless labourers demanding land rights.

**20.** Which of the following statements about the Bardoli Satyagraha (1928) is correct?
(A) A widespread protest movement directed specifically against the arrival of the Simon Commission.
(B) A movement led directly by Mahatma Gandhi from its inception and initial organization.
(C) A campaign that failed to achieve its objectives and was eventually brutally suppressed.
(D) Protest against the arbitrary enhancement of land revenue by the government.

**21.** What was one of the key causes for the foundation of the Indian National Congress in 1885?
(A) Launching a violent armed struggle against the British.
(B) Demanding immediate and complete independence from rule.
(C) Providing a 'safety valve' for popular discontent and dialogue.
(D) Representing only the interests of the industrial workers.

**22.** The leadership of the Indian National Congress in its initial phase (1885-1905) is best described as:
(A) Extremist
(B) Moderate
(C) Revolutionary
(D) Socialist

**23.** Which of the following leaders is NOT associated with the 'Extremist' phase of Indian Nationalism?
(A) Lala Lajpat Rai
(B) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(C) Bipin Chandra Pal
(D) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

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**24.** The trio 'Lal-Bal-Pal' was central to the rise of Extremist Nationalism. Who were they?
(A) Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal
(B) Lala Hardayal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal
(C) Lala Lajpat Rai, Balshastri Jambhekar, Gopal Krishna Gokhale
(D) Lala Hansraj, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, P. C. Ray

**25.** The historic split in the Indian National Congress between the Moderates and the Extremists occurred at which session?
(A) Calcutta Session, 1906
(B) Lucknow Session, 1916
(C) Surat Session, 1907
(D) Nagpur Session, 1920

**26.** Which of the following ideologies is most closely associated with Aurobindo Ghosh during his phase as a nationalist leader?
(A) Passive resistance and spiritual nationalism.
(B) Constitutional agitation and prayer.
(C) Violent revolution and assassination of British officials.
(D) Economic critique of colonialism based on drain of wealth.

agriculture, and the systematic drain of wealth. However, they did not result in the emergence of a large and prosperous class of peasant proprietors. Instead, rigid land revenue demands and the shift toward cash crops often impoverished the peasantry and forced many into debt. The overall impact of colonial economic management was characterized by agrarian stagnation and widespread poverty rather than the creation of a wealthy farming class.

**296.** (B) Lord Wellesley
The Subsidiary Alliance was a key tool for British imperial expansion and is most famously associated with the viceroyalty of Lord Wellesley. This diplomatic and military system allowed the British to bring various Indian states under their influence by offering protection in exchange for political and military subordination. By compelling rulers to accept British troops and control over their foreign affairs, Wellesley successfully expanded British dominance and secured the compliance of major regional powers throughout the subcontinent.

**297.** (C) The common people, peasants, and tribals.
The Subaltern school of historiography is primarily interested in exploring history from the perspective of the common people, including peasants, workers, and tribal communities. This approach seeks to document the independent consciousness and agency of these marginalized groups, who were often ignored by traditional elite-centered historical narratives. By focusing on those at the grassroots level, Subaltern historians provide a more inclusive and diverse understanding of the social and political movements that shaped the history of modern India.

**298.** (B) The maintenance and consolidation of British power and economic interests.
The central theme of the administration under both the Company and the Crown was the maintenance and consolidation of British political power and economic interests in India. While various reforms were introduced, the primary goal of the colonial state remained the secure management of the subcontinent as a source of revenue and raw materials. Administrative, legal, and military structures were all designed to ensure the stability and preservation of the empire while maximizing the economic benefits for the British metropole.

**299.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The land settlements introduced by the British disrupted traditional agrarian structures by imposing high and fixed revenue demands. Because these payments were required in cash regardless of harvest conditions, many peasants were forced to borrow from local moneylenders to meet their obligations. The exorbitant interest rates charged by these lenders created a persistent cycle of debt, leading to widespread rural indebtedness and the overall impoverishment of the peasantry during the period of colonial rule.

**300.** (B) The growing consciousness among women about their rights and social position.
The emergence of independent women's organizations during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries marked a significant shift in Indian social dynamics. These groups signified a growing consciousness among women regarding their status, legal rights, and educational needs. By creating platforms for self-expression, they moved beyond male-led reform efforts to directly advocate for gender equality and empowerment. This mobilization allowed women to articulate their own grievances and participate more actively in the social and political life of the nation.

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**36.** Which of the following is a major factor that contributed to the development of Leftist ideology in India in the early 20th century?
(A) The success of the moderate nationalists.
(B) The British government's policy of promoting socialist ideas.
(C) The failure of the 1857 revolt.
(D) The influence of the Russian Revolution of 1917.

**37.** Which of the following was a major Leftist organization formed in India during the freedom struggle?
(A) The Servants of India Society
(B) The Justice Party
(C) The Communist Party of India
(D) The Swaraj Party

**38.** What was a key role of Leftists in the Indian Freedom movement?
(A) They exclusively supported the policies of the British government.
(B) They focused on organizing industrial workers and peasants on class lines.
(C) They advocated for the continuation of the princely states.
(D) They strongly opposed any form of mass movement against the British.

**39.** The origin of communal politics in modern India is often traced to:
(A) The ancient caste system.
(B) The economic policies of the Mughal emperors.
(C) The linguistic reorganization of states.
(D) The 'divide and rule' policy of the British.

**40.** Which event is considered a major milestone in the development of communal politics, leading to the demand for a separate state?
(A) The formation of the All-India Muslim League in 1906.
(B) The foundation of the Indian National Congress.
(C) The launch of the Swadeshi Movement.
(D) The Champaran Satyagraha.

**41.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding communalism's role in the partition of Bharat.
(A) It fostered the idea that religious communities constituted separate nations.
(B) Political leaders used communal sentiments to mobilize support and secure political gains.
(C) It was solely a result of inherent and ancient animosity between Hindus and Muslims.
(D) The British policy of separate electorates exacerbated communal divisions.

**42.** What was the most significant immediate challenge faced by India after Independence in 1947?
(A) The integration of more than 500 princely states into the Indian Union.
(B) The framing of the constitution.
(C) The first general elections.
(D) The launch of the first Five-Year Plan.

**43.** The "Kashmir problem" at the time of independence primarily originated from:
(A) The economic backwardness of the state.
(B) A linguistic dispute with neighbouring regions.
(C) The implementation of the first Five-Year Plan.
(D) The ruler of the state hesitating to accede to either India or Pakistan.

**44.** Who was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution?
(A) Jawaharlal Nehru
(B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
(C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(D) Dr. Rajendra Prasad

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**45.** The Five-Year Plans in post-independence India were primarily aimed at:
(A) Promoting a free-market capitalist economy.
(B) Achieving planned economic development and industrialization.
(C) Focusing solely on agricultural development.
(D) Dissolving the public sector enterprises.

**46.** The reorganization of states on the basis of language was undertaken based on the recommendations of which commission?
(A) Simon Commission
(B) Hunter Commission
(C) Butler Commission
(D) States Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission)

**47.** India's foreign policy in the initial years after independence (up to 1964) was guided by the principle of:
(A) Non-Alignment.
(B) Alliance with the Soviet Union.
(C) Alliance with the United States.
(D) Imperial expansion.

**48.** Who among the following is known as the chief aide of Rani Laxmibai and was a key figure in the 1857 revolt, especially in the women's army?
(A) Begum Hazrat Mahal
(B) Jhalkaribai
(C) Uda Devi
(D) Avantibai

**49.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The moderate leadership of the INC failed to secure significant concessions from the British in its early phase.
Reason (R): Their methods of constitutional agitation, petitions, and prayers were seen as weak and ineffective by the colonial rulers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) Statement II is true, but Statement I is false.

**50.** The Bhila rebellion occurred in which two regions?
(A) Maharashtra and Rajasthan
(B) Bengal and Bihar
(C) Punjab and Haryana
(D) Assam and Nagaland

**51.** Consider the following statements about the causes of the rise of Indian Nationalism:
1. Economic exploitation by the British, leading to the drain of wealth, created widespread discontent.
2. The introduction of modern education exposed Indians to Western ideas of liberty, equality, and nationalism.
3. Rediscovery of India's past glory and cultural heritage instilled a sense of national pride.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, and 3

**52.** Maulvi Ahmed Ullah, a significant hero of the 1857 revolt, was a prominent leader in which region?
(A) Delhi
(B) Kanpur
(C) Gwalior
(D) Lucknow and Faizabad

**53.** Which of the following rebellions was NOT a tribal rebellion?
(A) Kol Rebellion
(B) Munda Rebellion
(C) Vasudeva Balavant Fadake rebellion
(D) Khasi Rebellion

**54.** Arrange the following Satyagrahas in chronological order of their occurrence:
1. Bardoli Satyagraha
2. Champaran Satyagraha
3. Kheda Satyagraha
4. Salt Satyagraha (Dandi March)

Which of the following represents the correct sequence?
(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 3, 2, 4, 1
(D) 2, 1, 3, 4

**55.** Which statement best describes the ideology of the 'Extremist' faction within the Indian National Congress?
(A) Belief in British rule goodness and seeking reforms within the existing system.
(B) Focus on organizing industrial workers for an international socialist revolution.
(C) Goal achievement through targeted political assassinations and localized dacoities.
(D) Advocacy for Swaraj via methods like boycott and mass agitation.

**56.** The Surat Split of 1907 was a direct consequence of:
(A) Growing differences between the Moderate and Extremist wings of the Congress.
(B) The partition of Bengal.
(C) The failure of the Non-Cooperation

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Movement.
(D) The Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

**57.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Event/Movement)
P. Bardoli Satyagraha
Q. Ghadar Party
R. Indian National Army (INA) revival
S. Pabna Movement
List II: (Associated Leader)
1. Lala Hardayal
2. Subhashchandra Bose
3. Ishan Chandra Roy
4. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

**58.** The 'Forward Bloc' was a political faction/party formed by whom after resigning from the Congress presidency?
(A) Subhashchandra Bose
(B) Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) Sardar Patel
(D) C. Rajagopalachari

**59.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement concerning the role of Leftists in the freedom movement?
(A) They were critical of Gandhi's leadership on several occasions.
(B) They played a significant role in the trade union movement.
(C) They actively supported the British during the Quit India Movement of 1942.
(D) They were strong advocates for a unified, independent India and opposed partition.

**60.** The "Direct Action Day" call by the Muslim League in 1946 was a major event that escalated:
(A) The process of constitution-making.
(B) Communal violence and strengthened the case for partition.
(C) The unity between Congress and the League.
(D) The INA trials.

**61.** What was the primary legal and political instrument used by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to achieve the integration of princely states?
(A) The Doctrine of Lapse
(B) The Regulating Act
(C) The Instrument of Accession
(D) The Government of India Act, 1935

**62.** The economic base of nationalism in India was strengthened by the popularization of which concept by early nationalists?
(A) The 'Safety Valve' theory
(B) The 'White Man's Burden' theory
(C) The 'Laissez-faire' theory
(D) The 'Drain of Wealth' theory

**63.** The immediate spark for the Santhala rebellion (1855-56) was the oppressive practices of:
(A) Zamindars and moneylenders (dikus)
(B) British military officers
(C) Christian missionaries
(D) Rival tribal groups

**64.** Tatya Tope was a commander for which leader during the 1857 revolt before he began his own guerrilla campaign?
(A) Rani Laxmibai
(B) Nana Saheb
(C) Begum Hazrat Mahal
(D) Kunwar Singh

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**65.** The Ahom rebellion in Assam was a protest against the British failure to fulfill a pledge to withdraw from Assam after which war?
(A) Second Anglo-Maratha War
(B) First Anglo-Burmese War
(C) Battle of Plassey
(D) Third Anglo-Sikh War

**66.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The Bardoli Satyagraha is a significant landmark in the history of the Indian peasant movement.
Reason (R): Its success elevated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to a position of national leadership and demonstrated the power of non-violent mass protest.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct

List II: (Associated Place/Role)
1. Faizabad
2. Commander-in-chief of rebel forces in Delhi
3. Barrackpore
4. Jhansi

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

**8.** Which of the following was NOT a major cause for the failure of the 1857 Revolt?
(A) The active participation of the educated middle class on the side of the rebels.
(B) Lack of a unified ideology and leadership.
(C) Superior military resources and organization of the British.
(D) Lack of widespread support from all parts and sections of Indian society.

**9.** The Kuka rebellion was a significant resistance movement that originated in which region of India?
(A) Bengal
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Punjab
(D) Assam

**10.** Consider the following statements about early resistance to colonial rule:
1. The Kuka rebellion had both political and religious overtones, aiming to restore Sikh sovereignty.
2. The Naga rebellion was primarily a response to British attempts to stop head-hunting practices and assert administrative control.
3. The Ahom rebellion was led by the deposed Ahom princes against the British annexation of their territory.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, and 3

**11.** Who was the leader of the rebellion in Maharashtra known for organizing Ramoshis and other hill tribes against the British?
(A) Gomdhar Konwar
(B) Birsa Munda
(C) Sidhu Murmu
(D) Vasudeva Balavant Fadake

**12.** The Khasi rebellion in the North-East was primarily a protest against which British action?
(A) The imposition of heavy taxes on agricultural land.
(B) British road construction through Khasi hills linking Brahmaputra Valley and Sylhet.
(C) The mandatory and forced cultivation of indigo by local peasant farmers.
(D) The introduction of Christian missionaries into the remote tribal regions.

**13.** Arrange the following tribal rebellions in chronological order of their occurrence:
1. Santhal Rebellion
2. Kol Rebellion
3. Munda Rebellion (Ulgulan)
4. Ahom Rebellion

Which of the following represents the correct sequence?
(A) 4, 2, 1, 3
(B) 1, 3, 2, 4
(C) 2, 4, 3, 1
(D) 3, 1, 4, 2

**14.** The Munda rebellion, also known as 'Ulgulan' or 'The Great Tumult', was led by whom?
(A) Chakra Bisoi
(B) Sidhu and Kanhu
(C) Titu Mir
(D) Birsa Munda

**15.** Identify the incorrect pair regarding peasant and tribal movements.
(A) Bhila rebellion - Vasudeva Balavant Fadake
(B) Santhala rebellion - Sidhu and Kanhu
(C) Neel rebellion - Digambar and Bishnu Biswas
(D) Pabna movement - Ishan Chandra Roy

**16.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The Neel (Indigo) Rebellion of 1859-60 was a successful peasant uprising.
Reason (R): It compelled the British government to appoint the Indigo Commission and issue an

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**78.** Identify the correct statement about the Moderate leadership of the INC.
(A) They demanded complete independence from the very beginning.
(B) They used methods of boycott and passive resistance.
(C) They were primarily drawn from the rural peasantry.
(D) They had immense faith in the British sense of justice and fair play.

**79.** The slogan "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it" is famously attributed to:
(A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(B) Lala Lajpat Rai
(C) Mahatma Gandhi
(D) Aurobindo Ghosh

**80.** Revolutionaries active abroad, such as those in the Ghadar Party, aimed to:
(A) Secure dominion status for India through lobbying.
(B) Incite rebellion among Indian soldiers and expatriates to overthrow British rule.
(C) Provide financial aid to the Indian National Congress.
(D) Establish socialist communes in Europe and America.

**81.** Which movement saw Gandhi's first use of a mass hunger strike (fast unto death) as a weapon in India?
(A) Champaran Satyagraha
(B) Ahmedabad Mill Strike
(C) Kheda Satyagraha
(D) Non-Cooperation Movement

**82.** The term 'Ulgulan' is associated with which of the following rebellions?
(A) Munda Rebellion
(B) Santhala Rebellion
(C) Kol Rebellion
(D) Neel Rebellion

**83.** The ideological basis of the Communist Party of India, a major leftist organization, was:
(A) Fabian Socialism
(B) Anarchism
(C) Marxism-Leninism
(D) Gandhian Sarvodaya

**84.** The introduction of 'Separate Electorates' for Muslims by the British was a key feature of which Act?
(A) Government of India Act, 1935
(B) Government of India Act, 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms)
(C) The Rowlatt Act, 1919
(D) Indian Councils Act, 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms)

**85.** Which state's integration into India involved a police action codenamed 'Operation Polo'?
(A) Kashmir
(B) Junagadh
(C) Hyderabad
(D) Travancore

**86.** A significant economic impact of British rule that fuelled nationalism was:
(A) The rapid industrialization of India on par with Britain.
(B) The de-industrialization of India and the ruin of traditional artisans and craftsmen.
(C) The creation of a welfare state with extensive social security.
(D) An equitable distribution of land and resources.

**87.** Mangal Pandey, a sepoy at Barrackpore, revolted in 1857 because he:
(A) Was denied a promotion.
(B) Was protesting against low pay and poor service conditions.
(C) Was ordered to fight in a war overseas.
(D) Refused to use the newly introduced Enfield Rifle cartridges.

**88.** Identify the incorrect pair of a rebellion and its primary region.
(A) Naga Rebellion - Bengal
(B) Kuka Rebellion - Punjab
(C) Ahom Rebellion - Assam
(D) Bhila Rebellion - Maharashtra

**89.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Peasant Movement)
P. Neel Rebellion
Q. Pabna Movement
R. Champaran Satyagraha

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**167.** A major point of ideological divergence between the Leftists and the Gandhian-led Congress was on the concept of:
(A) Complete independence.
(B) Use of non-violence.
(C) Opposition to British rule.
(D) Class struggle.

**168.** The communal award announced by British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald in 1932 provided for:
(A) Separate electorates not only for Muslims but also for depressed classes and other minorities.
(B) Dominion status for India.
(C) The formation of a constituent assembly.
(D) The partition of Punjab and Bengal.

**169.** What was the 'Kashmir problem' in the context of the 1947-1964 period?
(A) A movement for linguistic reorganization within Kashmir.
(B) A problem of industrial underdevelopment.
(C) The dispute over the accession of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir to India, leading to conflict with Pakistan.
(D) A border dispute between Kashmir and China.

**170.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The rise of Indian nationalism was not a single, monolithic process but involved multiple, often conflicting, streams of thought.
Reason (R): The interests and ideologies of the moderate constitutionalists, extremist nationalists, revolutionaries, and leftists were not always aligned.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**171.** A major cause of failure of the 1857 revolt was that:
(A) The rebels had no cause to fight for.
(B) The British forces were small in number.
(C) The weather conditions were unfavorable for the rebels.
(D) Many Indian rulers and large regions remained neutral or supported the British.

**172.** The Kol tribe, which rebelled in 1831-32, was mainly located in the region of:
(A) Malabar
(B) Chhotanagpur
(C) Assam
(D) Rajasthan

**173.** The Bardoli Satyagraha was an important event in the freedom struggle because:
(A) It was the first time peasants refused to pay taxes.
(B) It led to the immediate grant of independence.
(C) It proved organized non-violent mass protest could force government concessions.
(D) It was led by Mahatma Gandhi himself.

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**174.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Term/Slogan)
P. Swaraj is my birthright
Q. Do or Die
R. Passive Resistance
S. Ghadar
List II: (Associated Leader/Group)
1. Mahatma Gandhi
2. Aurobindo Ghosh
3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
4. Revolutionaries in USA
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**175.** The ideology and activities of revolutionaries in India and abroad were characterized by all the following EXCEPT:
(A) A focus on constitutional agitation and petitioning.
(B) Belief in the efficacy of armed struggle.
(C) A strong sense of patriotism and willingness for self-sacrifice.
(D) Establishment of secret societies and networks.

social and religious customs of Indians.
(C) The policy of ruthless conquest and expansion was renounced by the British.
(D) The Mughal dynasty was restored to full power.

**100.** Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the last Peshwa Baji Rao II, led the 1857 revolt from:
(A) Jhansi
(B) Delhi
(C) Gwalior
(D) Kanpur

**101.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The Kol Rebellion of 1831-32 was a major tribal uprising against outsiders.
Reason (R): The immediate cause was the transfer of tribal lands to non-tribal farmers and moneylenders, and the imposition of a new judicial and revenue system.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**102.** The Neel (Indigo) Rebellion received significant support from which group, which helped publicize the peasants' plight?
(A) The British zamindars
(B) The Indian educated middle class and press
(C) The British government in London
(D) The French indigo planters

**103.** Which of the following was NOT a method used by the 'Extremist' nationalists?
(A) Boycott of British goods and institutions
(B) Promotion of Swadeshi or indigenous products
(C) Establishment of national schools and colleges
(D) Sending petitions and memorials to the British Parliament

**104.** Arrange the following events in chronological order:
1. Surat Split of Congress
2. Foundation of the Muslim League
3. Partition of Bengal
4. Foundation of the Indian National Congress
Which of the following represents the correct sequence?
(A) 4, 3, 2, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 4, 2, 3, 1
(D) 3, 4, 1, 2

**105.** The 'Ghadar' in the name of the Ghadar Party literally means:
(A) Freedom
(B) Unity
(C) Revolution
(D) Sacrifice

**106.** The main objective of the Leftist organizations in the Indian freedom movement was to link the struggle for national liberation with the struggle for:
(A) The economic emancipation of the peasants and workers.
(B) The revival of ancient traditions.
(C) The establishment of a theocratic state.
(D) The preservation of the princely states.

**107.** What was a primary reason for the 'Kashmir Problem' escalating into a conflict immediately after partition?
(A) A referendum conducted by the United Nations.
(B) An economic blockade imposed by India.
(C) A rebellion by the Buddhist population in Ladakh.
(D) The invasion of the state by tribal raiders supported by Pakistan.

**108.** The social base of nationalism was initially narrow, but it expanded over time. Which factor was LEAST responsible for this expansion?
(A) The economic hardships caused by British policies affecting all classes.
(B) The British government's efforts to promote Indian participation in governance.
(C) The use of vernacular languages and religious symbols by leaders like Tilak.
(D) The mass mobilization strategies adopted during the Gandhian era.

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(D) Led to the 'drain of wealth' from India to Britain.

**127.** The fall of which city was a major blow to the rebels and a turning point in the 1857 Revolt?
(A) Delhi
(B) Kanpur
(C) Lucknow
(D) Jhansi

**128.** U Tirot Sing was a leader of which of the following tribal rebellions?
(A) Munda Rebellion
(B) Khasi Rebellion
(C) Kol Rebellion
(D) Ahom Rebellion

**129.** The main demand of the Bardoli Satyagraha, led by Sardar Patel, was:
(A) The abolition of the zamindari system.
(B) The withdrawal of a newly enhanced land revenue tax.
(C) The right for peasants to own the land they tilled.
(D) The end of the forced cultivation of cash crops.

**130.** Aurobindo Ghosh, after his withdrawal from active politics, established an ashram in which place, focusing on spiritualism?
(A) Calcutta
(B) Pondicherry
(C) Wardha
(D) Sabarmati

**131.** The primary aim of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), a revolutionary organization, was to establish:
(A) A Dominion of India under the British Crown.
(B) A series of independent princely states.
(C) A Federal Republic through armed revolution.
(D) A socialist state with Soviet assistance.

**132.** The "INA Trials" held at the Red Fort in Delhi had the unintended consequence of:
(A) Increasing communal tensions between Hindus and Muslims.
(B) Proving the INA members as traitors in the public eye.
(C) Leading to the immediate release of all INA prisoners by the British.
(D) Creating massive sympathy for the INA and uniting diverse political groups.

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**133.** Consider the following statements regarding leftist politics in India:
1. The Communist Party of India (CPI) was formally founded in Kanpur in 1925.
2. Leftist leaders often criticized the Indian National Congress for not adequately addressing the issues of workers and peasants.
3. The Meerut Conspiracy Case was a major government crackdown on communist and trade union leaders.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, and 3

**134.** Which of the following best explains the origin of communalism as a political ideology in modern India?
(A) It was an inevitable outcome of religious differences.
(B) It was a modern ideology that used religious differences as a tool for political mobilization and contestation for power.
(C) It was exclusively a creation of the Muslim League.
(D) It was solely a rural phenomenon with no support from the urban elite.

**135.** One of the most contentious issues in the integration of Indian states was the case of Junagadh, which was ultimately resolved by:
(A) A military invasion by India.
(B) A decision by the United Nations.
(C) The Nawab voluntarily signing the Instrument of Accession.
(D) A plebiscite in which the population voted to join India.

**136.** The policy of 'Panchsheel', a part of India's early foreign policy, does NOT include which of the following principles?
(A) Formation of a military alliance to counter superpowers.
(B) Mutual respect for each other's territorial

**119.** A primary cause of the Kheda Satyagraha was the authorities' refusal to grant revenue remission despite crop failure, which violated the:
(A) Salt Law
(B) Rowlatt Act
(C) Forest Act
(D) Famine Code

**120.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Ideology/Group)
P. Moderate Nationalism
Q. Extremist Nationalism
R. Revolutionary Nationalism
S. Leftist Politics (Socialist)
List II: (Leader/Proponent)
1. Bhagat Singh
2. M.N. Roy
3. Gopal Krishna Gokhale
4. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**121.** The activities of revolutionaries abroad, in places like London, Paris, and San Francisco, were significant because they:
(A) Successfully negotiated India's independence with foreign powers.
(B) Focused solely on providing educational opportunities for Indian students.
(C) Exposed colonial exploitation internationally and organized support for the cause.
(D) Were able to convince the British government to grant immediate dominion status.

**122.** The Dandi March, or Salt Satyagraha, was a key part of which larger movement?
(A) Civil Disobedience Movement
(B) Non-Cooperation Movement
(C) Quit India Movement
(D) Khilafat Movement

**123.** Which of the following statements about the role of Leftists in the freedom movement is incorrect?
(A) They consistently worked to bring peasant and worker issues to the forefront of the national movement.
(B) They formed organizations like the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).
(C) They offered a radical, socio-economic alternative to the mainstream nationalist discourse.
(D) They were in complete agreement with the Gandhian strategy of non-violence and class collaboration.

**124.** The Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, while rejecting the demand for a separate Pakistan, proposed:
(A) The immediate partition of India into two dominions.
(B) A three-tiered structure with a weak central government.
(C) A unitary government for all of British India.
(D) The continuation of direct British rule for another ten years.

**125.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The government of independent India undertook the massive task of reorganizing states.
Reason (R): The pre-existing provincial boundaries were based on British administrative convenience and did not reflect the linguistic and cultural realities of the country.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**126.** A key feature of the economic base of nationalism was the critique of British policies that:
(A) Promoted Indian industries at the cost of British ones.
(B) Established a self-sufficient village economy.
(C) Ensured high wages for Indian workers.

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**109.** What was the nature of the Kuka rebellion in its later phase?
(A) It became a purely social reform movement.
(B) It merged completely with the Indian National Congress.
(C) It transformed into a political movement aiming to overthrow British rule and restore Sikh sovereignty.
(D) It disintegrated after the death of its founder.

**110.** Which of the following is the most appropriate description of the Pabna Movement?
(A) A violent uprising aimed at overthrowing both the zamindars and the British.
(B) A religious movement to purify Islam.
(C) A tribal rebellion for forest rights.
(D) Legal and largely non-violent struggle against illegal demands of landlords.

**111.** The split between Moderates and Extremists in the Congress was temporarily healed at which session?
(A) Lucknow, 1916
(B) Surat, 1907
(C) Lahore, 1929
(D) Calcutta, 1906

**112.** Identify the correct pair of a revolutionary and the case/event they are famously associated with.
(A) Bhagat Singh - Alipore Bomb Case
(B) V.D. Savarkar - Nasik Conspiracy Case
(C) Surya Sen - Kakori Conspiracy
(D) Ram Prasad Bismil - Chittagong Armoury Raid

**113.** Consider the following statements about the Indian National Army (INA):
1. It was primarily composed of Indian prisoners of war captured by the Japanese.
2. It had a women's regiment named the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.
3. It succeeded in liberating a large part of mainland India from British control.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, and 3

**114.** The rise of communalism in India was a complex phenomenon. Which of the following was NOT a contributing factor?
(A) The consistent efforts of the Indian National Congress to promote inter-faith harmony.
(B) The economic and educational backwardness of a large section of the Muslim community.
(C) The use of religious symbols in nationalist politics by some leaders.
(D) The British policy of 'divide and rule' and separate electorates.

**115.** The adoption of the 'Objectives Resolution' in the Constituent Assembly was a significant step as it:
(A) Finalized the division of powers between the centre and states.
(B) Elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the permanent chairman.
(C) Outlined the philosophy and guiding principles for framing the Constitution.
(D) Officially declared India's independence.

**116.** The First Five Year Plan (1951-56) gave the highest priority to which sector?
(A) Heavy industry
(B) Service sector and IT
(C) Defence production
(D) Agriculture, including irrigation and power projects

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**117.** Which hero of 1857 is credited with leading the rebellion in Faizabad and was considered a major threat by the British, who put a large bounty on his head?
(A) Bakht Khan
(B) Nana Saheb
(C) Maulvi Ahmed Ullah
(D) Tatya Tope

**118.** The rebellion of the Nagas was a prolonged resistance against British penetration into their territory. A famous figure associated with a later phase of this resistance in the 20th century was:
(A) Tikendrajit Singh
(B) Rani Gaidinliu
(C) U Tirot Sing
(D) Gomdhar Konwar

integrity and sovereignty.
(C) Mutual non-aggression.
(D) Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

**137.** Which of the following is NOT considered a cause of the Revolution of 1857?
(A) The policy of Doctrine of Lapse.
(B) The activities of Christian missionaries.
(C) The formation of the Indian National Congress.
(D) The economic exploitation of India.

**138.** The Santhal rebellion was directed against:
(A) The local zamindars and moneylenders (dikus) as well as the British administration that supported them.
(B) British rule exclusively.
(C) Christian missionaries only.
(D) The Mughal remnants.

**139.** The ideology of the Moderate leaders of the Congress was influenced by:
(A) Marxist literature.
(B) Ancient Indian political traditions.
(C) The success of the Russian Revolution.
(D) European liberal and democratic thought.

**140.** Which of the following organizations was founded in a foreign country to fight for India's freedom?
(A) Anushilan Samiti
(B) Ghadar Party
(C) Abhinav Bharat
(D) Hindustan Republican Association

**141.** Gandhi's leadership of the freedom struggle was characterized by:
(A) The use of violence as a last resort.
(B) An exclusive focus on the urban educated class.
(C) The strategy of struggle-truce-struggle and mass mobilization.
(D) A complete rejection of negotiation with the British.

**142.** A significant role of Leftists in the freedom movement was their emphasis on:
(A) Dominion status and gradual reforms.
(B) A constitutional monarchy.
(C) A revival of the traditional village panchayat system.
(D) Complete and immediate independence with a radical socio-economic programme.

**143.** The formation of the Constituent Assembly was based on the proposals of the:
(A) Cabinet Mission Plan
(B) Cripps Mission
(C) Simon Commission
(D) Wavell Plan

**144.** Jhalkaribai, a heroic figure in the 1857 revolt, was a soldier in the army of:
(A) Nana Saheb
(B) Rani Laxmibai
(C) Begum Hazrat Mahal
(D) Kunwar Singh

**145.** The Munda rebellion under Birsa Munda aimed to establish:
(A) A separate Munda state within the British empire.
(B) A Munda Raj by driving out the British and the dikus (outsiders).
(C) Social reforms within the Munda society only.
(D) An alliance with the Indian National Congress.

**146.** Which incident led Rabindranath Tagore to renounce his knighthood?
(A) The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
(B) The Partition of Bengal
(C) The hanging of Bhagat Singh
(D) The Chauri Chaura incident

**147.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Event)
P. Kheda Satyagraha
Q. Surat Split
R. Foundation of Muslim League
S. Champaran Satyagraha
List II: (Year)
1. 1906
2. 1907
3. 1917
4. 1918
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

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(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**148.** The Kanpur Conspiracy Case (1924) was a trial initiated by the British against:
(A) Ghadar Party members
(B) Revolutionaries involved in the Kakori robbery
(C) Leaders of the Swadeshi movement
(D) Newly emerging communists like S.A. Dange and M.N. Roy

**149.** The Wavell Plan and Simla Conference (1945) failed primarily due to:
(A) The Congress's demand for immediate independence.
(B) The British refusal to transfer power.
(C) The intransigence of the Muslim League on the issue of representation in the Executive Council.
(D) The outbreak of the Quit India Movement.

**150.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The First Five Year Plan focused on agricultural development.
Reason (R): At the time of independence, the Indian economy was overwhelmingly agrarian, and the country faced a severe food crisis.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**151.** Which of the following factors contributed to the rise of extremist nationalism in the early 20th century?
(A) The success of moderate methods in achieving political rights.
(B) The British government's grant of universal suffrage.
(C) The economic prosperity brought by colonial rule.
(D) The partition of Bengal in 1905.

**152.** Which of the following rebellions is correctly matched with its leader?
(A) Santhal Rebellion - Sidhu and Kanhu
(B) Ahom Rebellion - Birsa Munda
(C) Kol Rebellion - Vasudeva Balavant Fadake
(D) Khasi Rebellion - Nana Saheb

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**153.** The most significant contribution of the early revolutionary organisations was:
(A) Achieving mass mobilization across the country.
(B) Winning elections to legislative councils.
(C) Inspiring the youth to make sacrifices for the motherland and challenging the myth of British invincibility.
(D) Forcing the British to grant immediate independence.

**154.** Gandhi's concept of 'Swaraj' meant:
(A) Rule over self via individual self-control, leading to political independence.
(B) Only achieving political independence from the systems of foreign colonial rule.
(C) The complete establishment of a centralized socialist state based on equality.
(D) The restoration of ancient monarchical rule and traditional systems of authority.

**155.** The Leftist movement in India, while contributing to the freedom struggle, often had a strained relationship with the mainstream Indian National Congress because:
(A) Leftists refused to participate in any anti-British activity.
(B) Leftists exclusively supported the British war effort in World War II.
(C) Congress did not believe in complete independence.
(D) Congress was seen as bourgeois and not committed to radical social change.

**156.** The Mountbatten Plan, which laid down the framework for the partition of India, was also known as:
(A) The Wavell Plan
(B) The June 3rd Plan
(C) The August Offer
(D) The Cripps Proposal

**157.** The process of framing the Indian constitution drew inspiration from the constitutions of many

countries, but its fundamental spirit was shaped by:
(A) The British parliamentary system exclusively.
(B) The American presidential system.
(C) The ideals and aspirations forged during the long freedom struggle.
(D) The constitution of the Soviet Union.

**158.** The Indian Reorganisation of States Act of 1956 was primarily based on the principle of:
(A) Economic viability
(B) Administrative convenience
(C) Caste
(D) Language

**159.** The Bandung Conference (1955) was a crucial milestone in the development of:
(A) The Non-Aligned Movement.
(B) The United Nations.
(C) The Commonwealth of Nations.
(D) The Warsaw Pact.

**160.** Which result of the 1857 revolution led to a change in the British army's organization in India?
(A) The number of British soldiers was decreased.
(B) The policy of recruiting soldiers from 'martial races' like Sikhs, Gurkhas, and Pathans was adopted.
(C) Artillery units were handed over to Indian soldiers.
(D) All Indian soldiers were removed from the army.

**161.** Vasudeva Balavant Fadake's rebellion is significant as an early example of:
(A) A purely peasant-based uprising for land rights.
(B) An armed struggle with the stated objective of overthrowing British rule to establish a 'Ganrajya'.
(C) A tribal revolt for forest rights.
(D) A non-violent satyagraha movement.

**162.** Identify the incorrect statement regarding the Champaran Satyagraha.
(A) It was primarily a movement of industrial workers.
(B) It was Mahatma Gandhi's first experiment with Satyagraha in India.
(C) The main issue was the oppressive Tinkathia system.
(D) The government was forced to abolish the exploitative system.

**163.** Arrange the following leaders' active periods in a broad chronological sequence of their prominence:
1. Dadabhai Naoroji (as a moderate leader)
2. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (as an extremist leader)
3. Bhagat Singh (as a revolutionary)
4. Jawaharlal Nehru (as Prime Minister)

Which of the following represents the correct sequence?
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 1, 4, 3
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

**164.** What was the immediate trigger for the split in the Congress at Surat in 1907?
(A) The failure of the Swadeshi movement.
(B) A disagreement over the Partition of Bengal.
(C) The passing of the Morley-Minto reforms.
(D) The election of the President for the session, with Extremists wanting Lala Lajpat Rai and Moderates proposing Rashbehari Ghosh.

**165.** Consider the following statements regarding revolutionary activities in India:
1. Early revolutionaries were concentrated in Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab.
2. Their methods often included assassination of oppressive British officials and conducting dacoities to raise funds.
3. They failed to create any impact on the masses and were completely isolated.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**166.** Subhashchandra Bose's famous slogan "Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom!" was given during his leadership of:
(A) The Indian National Congress
(B) The Indian National Army (INA)
(C) The Forward Bloc
(D) The Civil Disobedience Movement

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S. Kheda Satyagraha

List II: (Key Feature)

1. Protest against Tinkathia system
2. Refusal to pay enhanced revenue due to crop failure
3. Revolt against forced Indigo cultivation
4. Struggle against Zamindari oppression, seeking legal redress

Codes:

(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**90.** The main reason for the Extremists' opposition to the Moderates was the latter's:
(A) Policy of 'political mendicancy' or begging for concessions.
(B) Focus on social reforms.
(C) Support for the partition of Bengal.
(D) Lack of faith in mass participation.

**91.** Which of the following revolutionary acts was Chandrashekhar Azad NOT directly involved in?
(A) The Kakori Conspiracy
(B) The shooting of Saunders to avenge Lala Lajpat Rai's death
(C) The attempt to blow up the Viceroy's train
(D) The Chittagong Armoury Raid

**92.** The "Do or Die" call was given by Mahatma Gandhi during which mass movement?
(A) Non-Cooperation Movement
(B) Quit India Movement
(C) Civil Disobedience Movement
(D) Khilafat Movement

**93.** Consider the following statements about Subhashchandra Bose:
1. He was twice elected President of the Indian National Congress.
2. He established the Provisional Government of Free India (Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind).
3. He sought the help of Axis powers during World War II to fight the British.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, and 3

**94.** The Congress Socialist Party (CSP) was formed within the Indian National Congress by a group of leaders who advocated for:
(A) A return to constitutional methods of the Moderates.
(B) The immediate acceptance of the Dominion Status.
(C) A separate electorate for the working class.
(D) A blend of nationalism and socialist ideals.

**95.** The two-nation theory, which formed the basis for the partition of India, postulated that:
(A) Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations who could not live together in one country.
(B) India was a multinational state that should become a federation.
(C) India should be divided based on linguistic lines.
(D) India and Britain were two separate nations.

**96.** The framing of the Indian Constitution was a process that took approximately:
(A) One year
(B) Two years, eleven months, and eighteen days
(C) Six months
(D) Five years

**97.** Potti Sriramulu's fast unto death was a major catalyst for the creation of which linguistic state?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Gujarat
(D) Maharashtra

**98.** The Panchsheel or Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, a cornerstone of India's early foreign policy, was first formally enunciated in an agreement with which country?
(A) China
(B) The Soviet Union
(C) The United States
(D) Pakistan

**99.** Which of the following was a result of the Revolution of 1857?
(A) The proportion of Indian soldiers in the army was increased.
(B) The British began to interfere more in the

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**176.** Which of the following was NOT a movement led by Gandhi?
(A) Champaran Satyagraha
(B) Swadeshi Movement
(C) Non-Cooperation Movement
(D) Civil Disobedience Movement

**177.** The rise of Leftist ideology in India was a consequence of:
(A) The success of Gandhian methods.
(B) The influence of global events like the Russian Revolution and the growing discontent among workers and peasants.
(C) British policy to encourage communism.
(D) The failure of the Swadeshi movement.

**178.** The role of communalism in the partition of Bharat can be best understood as:
(A) An ideology deliberately fostered by colonial policies and exploited by certain political groups to achieve political ends.
(B) The sole factor responsible for the division.
(C) An ancient, unchanging hatred between religious groups.
(D) A movement supported by all Indians.

**179.** The task of integrating the princely states into the Indian union was primarily spearheaded by:
(A) Jawaharlal Nehru
(B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
(C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(D) Mahatma Gandhi

**180.** The primary objective of the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) was:
(A) Agricultural self-sufficiency.
(B) Development of the service sector.
(C) Promotion of small-scale and cottage industries.
(D) Rapid industrialization with a focus on heavy industries and the public sector.

**181.** The social and economic base of nationalism was provided by:
(A) The British ruling class who wanted to modernize India.
(B) The traditional feudal lords and princes seeking to regain their power.
(C) A new educated middle class and widespread economic hardships under colonial rule.
(D) Only the industrial working class.

**182.** Which of the following was a political cause of the 1857 Revolt?
(A) The greased cartridges incident.
(B) The Doctrine of Lapse policy pursued by Lord Dalhousie.
(C) The abolition of Sati.
(D) High land revenue demands.

**183.** The Pabna movement is distinct from many other peasant movements of the time because:
(A) It was extremely violent and aimed at killing all zamindars.
(B) It was led by the British planters.
(C) It was exclusively a tribal movement.
(D) Its goal was not to overthrow the zamindari system but to fight against illegal cesses and oppression within the legal framework.

**184.** Lala Lajpat Rai, a prominent extremist leader, was popularly known as:
(A) Punjab Kesari (The Lion of Punjab)
(B) Lokmanya
(C) Deshbandhu
(D) Deenabandhu

**185.** The Chittagong Armoury Raid of 1930 was a major revolutionary act led by:
(A) Bhagat Singh
(B) Jatin Das
(C) Surya Sen
(D) Rash Behari Bose

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**186.** The Poona Pact (1932) was an agreement between Mahatma Gandhi and:
(A) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
(B) The British Viceroy
(C) M.A. Jinnah
(D) Subhashchandra Bose

**187.** The role of Leftists in the freedom movement included:
(A) Unwavering support for all of Gandhi's decisions.
(B) Advocating for a return to traditional, pre-industrial society.
(C) Seeking dominion status under the British.
(D) Organizing peasants and workers into kisan sabhas and trade unions.

**188.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R).

Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The British policy of 'divide and rule' was a significant factor in the growth of communalism in India.
Reason (R): The introduction of separate electorates for Muslims and later for other communities created and perpetuated political divisions based on religion.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**189.** India's foreign policy up to 1964, characterized by Non-Alignment, meant:
(A) Isolating India from all world affairs.
(B) Aligning with whichever bloc offered more economic aid.
(C) Maintaining equidistance from both superpower blocs while actively participating in international issues.
(D) Creating a third military bloc to challenge the other two.

**190.** Which of the following leaders is NOT considered part of the Moderate phase of the INC?
(A) Dadabhai Naoroji
(B) Pherozeshah Mehta
(C) Surendranath Banerjea
(D) Bipin Chandra Pal

**191.** The Revolution of 1857 ultimately failed due to a combination of factors. Which of the following is the LEAST likely cause of its failure?
(A) The overwhelming support for the British East India Company among common people.
(B) Lack of support from the Sikh and Gurkha soldiers.
(C) The rebels' lack of a modern, forward-looking political programme.
(D) The superior generalship and organization of the British side.

**192.** Consider the following statements about resistance to colonial rule:
1. The Bhila rebellion in Maharashtra and Rajasthan was a recurring phenomenon against British policies and feudal oppression.
2. The Naga rebellion represented a struggle for sovereignty and against the imposition of colonial administration.
3. The Kuka rebellion started as a religious purification movement but later took on a political character.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**193.** The primary issue in the Kheda Satyagraha (1918) was the peasants' demand for:
(A) Abolition of the Tinkathia system.
(B) Remission of land revenue due to crop failure.
(C) Increased wages for mill workers.
(D) Right to enter temples.

**194.** The term 'Lal-Bal-Pal' refers to which group of nationalist leaders?
(A) Extremists
(B) Moderates
(C) Revolutionaries
(D) Socialists

**195.** A common ideological thread among the early revolutionary organisations in India was the belief that independence could be achieved through:
(A) Mass civil disobedience.
(B) Constitutional reforms.
(C) Individual heroic action and armed struggle.
(D) Pleadings and petitions.

**196.** The Round Table Conferences were convened in London to:
(A) Discuss the partition of India.
(B) Grant independence to India immediately.
(C) Mediate the dispute between Gandhi and Ambedkar.
(D) Discuss constitutional reforms for India, including the Simon Commission report.

**197.** The All India Kisan Sabha, a major peasant organization, was formed in 1936 with

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significant influence from which ideological group?
(A) Moderates
(B) Liberals
(C) Leftists and Socialists
(D) Swarajists

**198.** The 'Lahore Resolution' of the Muslim League in 1940 is significant because it:
(A) Demanded dominion status for India.
(B) Called for the formation of "independent states" for Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of India.
(C) Accepted the Cabinet Mission Plan.
(D) Announced a boycott of the Simon Commission.

**199.** The first general elections in independent India based on universal adult suffrage were held in:
(A) 1947
(B) 1950
(C) 1957
(D) 1951-52

**200.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Post-Independence Task)
P. Integration of States
Q. Framing of Constitution
R. Linguistic Reorganisation of States
S. Five Year Plans
List II: (Key Figure/Body)
1. Planning Commission
2. States Reorganisation Commission
3. Sardar Patel
4. Constituent Assembly (Drafting Committee under Ambedkar)
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**201.** Which historical interpretation views the 1857 revolt as the "First War of Indian Independence"?
(A) The imperialist interpretation of British historians.
(B) The early administrative reports of the East India Company.
(C) The nationalist interpretation, notably by V.D. Savarkar.
(D) The subaltern school's focus on peasant consciousness.

**202.** The rebellion of Vasudeva Balavant Fadake was primarily concentrated in which modern-day state?
(A) Maharashtra
(B) Punjab
(C) Bengal
(D) Tamil Nadu

**203.** Identify the incorrect pairing of a movement and its primary cause.
(A) Champaran Satyagraha - Tinkathia system
(B) Kheda Satyagraha - Revenue remission after crop failure
(C) Bardoli Satyagraha - Enhancement of land revenue
(D) Pabna Movement - Salt Tax

**204.** The split in the Congress in 1907 was a victory for which group's policy, in the short term?
(A) The Moderates' policy of constitutionalism.
(B) The British policy of 'divide and rule'.
(C) The Extremists' policy of mass agitation.
(D) The Revolutionaries' policy of armed struggle.

**205.** The Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar were famous revolutionary organisations based in:
(A) Punjab
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Bengal
(D) Madras

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**206.** Gandhi withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1922 due to which incident?
(A) The Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
(B) The announcement of the Simon Commission.
(C) The failure of the Round Table Conference.
(D) The Chauri Chaura incident where a police station was set on fire.

**207.** A primary role of Leftist organisations like the Communist Party of India (CPI) during the freedom movement was to:
(A) Propagate socialist and communist ideas and organize the working class and peasantry.
(B) Act as a bridge between the Indian National

**247.** The Congress Socialist Party (CSP) was formed in 1934 by a group of young leaders within the INC. Who was one of its prominent founders?
(A) Sardar Patel
(B) C. Rajagopalachari
(C) M.A. Jinnah
(D) Acharya Narendra Dev

**248.** The demand for separate electorates, a key element of communal politics, meant that:
(A) Only people from a particular religion could vote for candidates of that same religion.
(B) All adults could vote.
(C) Elections would be held separately for men and women.
(D) Only property owners could vote.

**249.** The 'standstill agreement' was a mechanism used in 1947 to:
(A) Halt the communal riots.
(B) Postpone the framing of the constitution.
(C) Maintain existing administrative and economic arrangements between the new Indian government and the princely states.
(D) Freeze the India-Pakistan borders.

**250.** The foreign policy of Non-Alignment, pursued by India after 1947, was a policy of:
(A) Not joining any military bloc and maintaining an independent foreign policy.
(B) Not taking part in international affairs.
(C) Siding with the USSR.
(D) Siding with the USA.

**251.** A significant cause for the rise of Indian nationalism was the role of the press, which:
(A) Exclusively supported the British government's policies.
(B) Was owned and operated entirely by the British.
(C) Focused only on international news and ignored Indian affairs.
(D) Helped in the circulation of nationalist ideas and exposed the flaws of colonial rule.

**252.** Consider the following statements regarding the impact of the 1857 Revolt:
1. It led to the end of the East India Company's rule in India.
2. The British Crown assumed direct responsibility for the administration of India.
3. The Governor-General was given the new title of Viceroy.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**253.** The Bhils, a tribal community, rebelled against the British in the regions of:
(A) Bengal and Bihar
(B) Assam and Nagaland
(C) Maharashtra and Rajasthan
(D) Punjab and Sindh

**254.** The Champaran Satyagraha, Kheda Satyagraha, and Ahmedabad Mill Strike are significant because they:
(A) Were the first instances of violent uprising against the British.
(B) Were all movements demanding complete independence.
(C) Failed completely to achieve their objectives.
(D) Established Gandhi as a leader with a potent new method of mass mobilization.

**255.** The split in the Congress at Surat in 1907 is a major event in the history of Indian nationalism. The two factions that split were:
(A) Moderates and Extremists
(B) Hindus and Muslims
(C) Pro-British and Anti-British
(D) Landlords and Peasants

**256.** "India House" in London, founded by Shyamji Krishnavarma, was a center for:
(A) Promoting British culture in India.
(B) Indian revolutionary activities in Britain.
(C) Trade negotiations between India and Britain.
(D) Promoting the moderate policies of the INC.

**257.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Movement/Event)
P. INA
Q. Bardoli Satyagraha
R. Champaran Satyagraha
S. Ghadar Party

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'imperialist war' but changed its stance to a 'people's war' after:
(A) The British promised independence.
(B) The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.
(C) Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union.
(D) The Quit India Movement was launched.

**218.** Identify the correct statement about the development of communalism.
(A) It was an ideology that claimed that people sharing a common religion also shared common political, economic, and social interests.
(B) It emerged as a result of the British government's policy of uniting all Indians.
(C) It was a movement that sought to abolish all religions.
(D) It was universally supported by all leaders of the Indian National Congress.

**219.** The States Reorganisation Commission (1953) was headed by:
(A) K.M. Panikkar
(B) H.N. Kunzru
(C) Sardar Patel
(D) Fazl Ali

**220.** India's decision to remain in the Commonwealth of Nations after independence was significant because it showed:
(A) India's continued subservience to the British Crown.
(B) A pragmatic approach to foreign policy, maintaining ties without compromising sovereignty.
(C) A rejection of the principle of Non-Alignment.
(D) A desire to become a monarchy.

**221.** The economic critique of colonialism put forward by early nationalists like Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Dutt, and others, was a key factor in:
(A) Proving the benevolent nature of British rule.
(B) Encouraging more British investment in India.
(C) Weakening the moral foundation of British rule by exposing its exploitative character.
(D) Justifying the partition of India.

**222.** Bakht Khan, who took effective command of the rebel forces in Delhi during the 1857 revolt, was an officer from:
(A) Gwalior
(B) Faizabad
(C) Meerut
(D) Bareilly

**223.** Consider the following statements about early peasant and tribal rebellions:
1. They were often directed against the immediate oppressors like moneylenders, zamindars, and colonial officials.
2. They were localized and lacked a modern sense of nationwide unity.
3. They were completely unsuccessful and had no impact on colonial policy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**224.** The Swadeshi movement, which was a direct outcome of the Partition of Bengal, was championed most vigorously by:
(A) The Moderate faction of the Congress.
(B) The Extremist faction of the Congress.
(C) The Muslim League.
(D) The British government.

**225.** A major contribution of the revolutionary movement to the Indian freedom struggle was that it:
(A) Successfully achieved a mass-based revolution.
(B) Provided an alternative to slow and ineffective constitutional politics.
(C) Convinced the British to immediately leave India through acts of terror.
(D) Established a parallel government across India.

**226.** What was the significance of the Lucknow Session of the Congress in 1916?
(A) The Congress and the Muslim League signed the Lucknow Pact, agreeing on a common set of demands.
(B) The Congress was split between Moderates and Extremists.
(C) The 'Purna Swaraj' (Complete

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Independence) resolution was passed.
(D) The Quit India movement was launched.

**227.** Leftist politics in India saw the rise of not only the Communist Party but also socialist groups. A prominent socialist leader who was active in the Quit India movement and later played a major role in post-independence politics was:
(A) S.A. Dange
(B) M.N. Roy
(C) Jayaprakash Narayan
(D) P.C. Joshi

**228.** The 'two-nation theory' was most forcefully articulated by:
(A) The Indian National Congress
(B) The Communist Party of India
(C) The Hindu Mahasabha
(D) The All-India Muslim League under M.A. Jinnah

**229.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Leader)
P. Jawaharlal Nehru
Q. Sardar Patel
R. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
S. Fazl Ali
List II: (Role in Post-Independence India)
1. Chairman, Drafting Committee of the Constitution
2. Chairman, States Reorganisation Commission
3. Architect of Foreign Policy (Non-Alignment)
4. Architect of Integration of Princely States
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**230.** The policy of 'Doctrine of Lapse' was a major cause of discontent among Indian rulers before 1857. This policy meant that:
(A) All Indian states would be annexed eventually.
(B) The adopted son of a deceased ruler without a natural heir could not inherit the kingdom.
(C) Indian rulers could not have a standing army.
(D) All trade had to be conducted through the East India Company.

**231.** The Neel (Indigo) Rebellion of 1859-60 in Bengal was a revolt by:
(A) Landlords against the British.
(B) Sepoys against their officers.
(C) Industrial workers for better wages.
(D) Cultivators against the coercive system of indigo plantation by European planters.

**232.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about the Moderate phase of the Indian National Congress?
(A) Their leadership was largely composed of educated, urban professionals.
(B) Their main objective was to achieve self-government through gradual reforms.
(C) They believed in the methods of constitutional agitation, petitions, and prayers.
(D) They successfully mobilized the peasant and working-class masses into the nationalist fold.

**233.** The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) was formed by the reorganisation of the HRA. The change in name reflected the influence of which ideology on young revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh?
(A) Fascism
(B) Anarchism
(C) Socialism
(D) Gandhism

**234.** The Khilafat Movement was started by Indian Muslims to protest against:
(A) The unjust treatment of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) by the Allied powers after World War I.
(B) The partition of Bengal.
(C) The Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
(D) The introduction of separate electorates.

**235.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): Subhash Chandra Bose believed that India's freedom could be achieved by taking help from Britain's enemies.

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Reason (R): He escaped from India during World War II and sought the help of Germany and Japan to fight against the British.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**236.** The Meerut Conspiracy Case (1929) was a government action aimed at suppressing the activities of:
(A) The Swaraj Party
(B) Communists and Trade Unionists
(C) The Muslim League
(D) The Ghadar Party

**237.** The 'Direct Action Day' announced by the Muslim League on August 16, 1946, led to widespread communal riots, especially in:
(A) Delhi
(B) Bombay
(C) Calcutta
(D) Madras

**238.** The integration of Hyderabad into the Indian Union was accomplished through:
(A) A plebiscite
(B) Voluntary accession by the Nizam
(C) A UN-mediated settlement
(D) A 'police action'

**239.** The basis for the reorganization of states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu in the 1950s was:
(A) Linguistic identity
(B) Economic viability
(C) Religious composition
(D) Administrative convenience

**240.** The development of a modern, pan-India nationalism was facilitated by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The introduction of railways, telegraphs, and a unified postal system.
(B) The British policy of promoting regionalism to weaken nationalist sentiment.
(C) The emergence of a common lingua franca in the form of English among the educated elite.
(D) The rise of a vernacular press that disseminated nationalist ideas.

**241.** Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi became a staunch enemy of the British because they:
(A) Abolished the practice of Sati.
(B) Refused to recognize the right of her adopted son to the throne under the Doctrine of Lapse.
(C) Imposed heavy taxes on her kingdom.
(D) Demanded that she convert to Christianity.

**242.** The Santhal rebellion of 1855-56 is a significant event in the history of tribal resistance. It took place in the region of:
(A) The Rajmahal Hills
(B) The Western Ghats
(C) The Himalayan foothills
(D) The Malabar Coast

**243.** The first Satyagraha movement led by Mahatma Gandhi in India was the:
(A) Kheda Satyagraha
(B) Bardoli Satyagraha
(C) Champaran Satyagraha
(D) Salt Satyagraha

**244.** The main point of contention between the Moderates and Extremists at the Surat Session (1907) revolved around:
(A) The partition of India.
(B) The leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
(C) Participation in World War I.
(D) The methods to be used in the freedom struggle and the goals of the movement.

**245.** Who among the following was a major revolutionary from India who was martyred by the British?
(A) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
(B) Dadabhai Naoroji
(C) Bhagat Singh
(D) Jawaharlal Nehru

**246.** The Cripps Mission of 1942 failed because:
(A) It proposed the partition of India, which the Congress rejected.
(B) It did not offer complete independence but only Dominion Status after the war.
(C) The Muslim League was not consulted.
(D) It was boycotted by Mahatma Gandhi.

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Congress and the Muslim League.
(C) Exclusively focus on religious reforms.
(D) Provide unquestioning support to the policies of Mahatma Gandhi.

**208.** The creation of the Muslim League in 1906 was encouraged by a British official, and the delegation that met the Viceroy was led by:
(A) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
(B) The Aga Khan
(C) Syed Ahmed Khan
(D) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

**209.** The accession of which princely state to India was conditional on a future plebiscite, which became a long-standing issue?
(A) Hyderabad
(B) Jammu and Kashmir
(C) Junagadh
(D) Travancore

**210.** What was the core idea behind the Five Year Plans initiated in post-independence India?
(A) To use state-led planning to direct economic resources towards development goals.
(B) To allow free-market forces to determine economic growth.
(C) To focus exclusively on agricultural exports.
(D) To privatize all major industries.

**211.** The rise of Indian nationalism was a result of the 'action and reaction' dynamic. Which of the following 'actions' of the British did NOT produce a nationalist 'reaction'?
(A) Racial arrogance and discrimination.
(B) Economic exploitation and drain of wealth.
(C) Introduction of a uniform system of law and administration.
(D) Political unification of the country.

**212.** Arrange the following events of the 1857 Revolt in chronological order:
1. Revolt in Meerut
2. Mangal Pandey's execution
3. Proclamation of Bahadur Shah Zafar as Emperor
4. Revolt in Jhansi

Which of the following represents the correct sequence?
(A) 2, 1, 3, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 1, 3, 4, 2

**213.** A common feature of the tribal rebellions like the Khasi, Naga, Ahom, and Kol rebellions was their opposition to:
(A) The caste system.
(B) The leadership of the Indian National Congress.
(C) The intrusion of outsiders (dikus) and the colonial administrative apparatus into their territories.
(D) The use of modern technology.

**214.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The Extremist phase of nationalism marked a significant shift in the Indian freedom struggle.
Reason (R): It moved beyond the elite-dominated politics of the Moderates and aimed to involve the masses through new methods like boycott and Swadeshi.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**215.** The Ghadar Party's plan for a synchronized revolt in India in 1915 failed primarily due to:
(A) Lack of funds.
(B) A sudden truce between Britain and Germany.
(C) Mahatma Gandhi's opposition to the plan.
(D) Betrayal and efficient counter-intelligence by the British.

**216.** The "Quit India" resolution was passed by the Congress Working Committee at which place in 1942?
(A) Wardha
(B) Bombay (Mumbai)
(C) Calcutta (Kolkata)
(D) Delhi

**217.** The Communist Party of India (CPI) initially characterized the Second World War as an

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List II: (Leader)
1. Sardar Patel
2. Lala Hardayal
3. Mahatma Gandhi
4. Subhashchandra Bose

Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

**258.** Leftist ideology gained ground in India during the 1920s and 1930s due to:
(A) The global impact of the Russian Revolution and rising class consciousness among various groups.
(B) British government patronage.
(C) The success of capitalist development in India.
(D) The decline of the Indian National Congress.

**259.** The Muslim League's initial objective at its formation in 1906 was to:
(A) Demand the partition of India.
(B) Launch a nationwide armed struggle against the British.
(C) Promote loyalty to the British government and protect the political rights of Muslims.
(D) Merge with the Indian National Congress.

**260.** The "tryst with destiny" speech was delivered by whom on the eve of India's independence?
(A) Mahatma Gandhi
(B) Sardar Patel
(C) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
(D) Jawaharlal Nehru

**261.** The First Five Year Plan was based on which model?
(A) The Mahalanobis model
(B) The Gandhian model
(C) The Harrod-Domar model
(D) The Chicago School model

**262.** The Revolt of 1857 was sparked by the incident at Meerut, where sepoys revolted after:
(A) Being ordered to cross the sea.
(B) Being punished for refusing to use the new greased cartridges.
(C) A reduction in their salaries.
(D) The annexation of Awadh.

**263.** The Pabna Agrarian Leagues were known for their:
(A) Call for a violent overthrow of the British.
(B) Demand for a separate peasant state.
(C) Complete loyalty to the zamindars.
(D) Use of legal methods, such as non-payment of illegal rent and legal challenges, to fight zamindari oppression.

**264.** Aurobindo Ghosh's political philosophy, before he turned to spiritualism, is best described as:
(A) A doctrine of spiritual nationalism and passive resistance.
(B) Constitutional agitation.
(C) Marxist revolution.
(D) Complete surrender to British rule.

**265.** What was the "Komagata Maru" incident?
(A) A train robbery conducted by revolutionaries.
(B) The assassination of a British official.
(C) A ship carrying Indian immigrants being turned away from Canada, which inflamed nationalist and revolutionary sentiments.
(D) A raid on a British armoury.

**266.** The concept of 'Gram Swaraj' or village autonomy was central to the political philosophy of:
(A) Mahatma Gandhi
(B) Subhashchandra Bose
(C) Jawaharlal Nehru
(D) B.R. Ambedkar

**267.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): The Leftists, including communists and socialists, played a crucial role in mobilizing workers and peasants during the freedom struggle.
Reason (R): They organized trade unions and kisan sabhas, bringing class issues into the mainstream of anti-imperialist politics.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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**268.** The partition of India in 1947 was the culmination of a complex process in which a key element was:
(A) The success of the Quit India Movement.
(B) The failure of the Congress and the Muslim League to agree on a power-sharing arrangement in a united India.
(C) A UN resolution.
(D) A referendum held across India.

**269.** The Constituent Assembly of India was:
(A) Directly elected by the people of India on the basis of universal adult franchise.
(B) Appointed by the British government.
(C) Indirectly elected by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.
(D) Nominated by the Viceroy.

**270.** Indian foreign policy between 1947 and 1964 was heavily influenced by the Cold War. Non-Alignment was a response designed to:
(A) Formally join the Soviet military bloc.
(B) Formally join the American military bloc.
(C) Isolate India entirely from world affairs.
(D) Assert sovereignty and avoid superpower rivalries.

**271.** One of the major social causes for the rise of Indian nationalism was:
(A) The racial arrogance of the British and the discrimination faced by Indians.
(B) The British promotion of the caste system.
(C) The abolition of all Indian customs by the British.
(D) The equal treatment of all subjects by the British rulers.

**272.** Identify the hero of 1857 who was a skilled guerrilla warfare tactician and an associate of Nana Saheb.
(A) Bakht Khan
(B) Tatya Tope
(C) Maulvi Ahmed Ullah
(D) Mangal Pandey

**273.** The Neel Darpan, a play by Dinabandhu Mitra, depicted the brutalities associated with which rebellion?
(A) Santhal Rebellion
(B) Neel (Indigo) Rebellion
(C) Pabna Movement
(D) Munda Rebellion

**274.** The Extremist leaders like Tilak and Pal popularized new forms of political action, such as:
(A) The boycott of foreign goods and the promotion of Swadeshi.
(B) Sending delegations to England.
(C) Writing petitions to the Viceroy.
(D) Contesting elections under British-controlled councils.

NODIA

**275.** Consider the following statements about the role of revolutionaries:
1. They aimed to instill a sense of pride and a spirit of defiance among Indians.
2. Their actions were often in response to repressive British policies.
3. They had no connection with or influence on the mainstream nationalist movement led by Congress.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**276.** The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred during the protests against which act?
(A) The Morley-Minto Reforms
(B) The Simon Commission
(C) The Government of India Act, 1935
(D) The Rowlatt Act

**277.** Which of the following is a major leftist organisation in India?
(A) The Servants of India Society
(B) The Swaraj Party
(C) The Communist Party of India
(D) The Brahmo Samaj

**278.** The "communal triangle" in the context of the freedom struggle refers to the interplay between:
(A) Congress, Muslim League, and Hindu Mahasabha
(B) Indian Nationalists, British Imperialists, and Communalists
(C) Peasants, Workers, and Landlords
(D) Moderates, Extremists, and Revolutionaries

**279.** The integration of Kashmir was complicated by the ruler's initial desire for:
(A) Immediate accession to Pakistan.
(B) Immediate accession to India.
(C) A merger with China.
(D) Independence.

**280.** The Mahalanobis model, which influenced the Second Five Year Plan, emphasized:
(A) The development of a heavy industry-based public sector.
(B) Agricultural development.
(C) A shift towards a service-based economy.
(D) A free-market approach with minimal state intervention.

**281.** The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885, and its first session was presided over by:
(A) A.O. Hume
(B) Dadabhai Naoroji
(C) W.C. Bonnerjee
(D) Surendranath Banerjea

**282.** The Munda Rebellion (1899-1900) under Birsa Munda is also known as:
(A) The Ulgulan (The Great Tumult)
(B) The Santhal Hul
(C) The Kol Insurrection
(D) The Ramosi Uprising

**283.** The demand for 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence was adopted by the Indian National Congress at which session?
(A) Lucknow Session, 1916
(B) Nagpur Session, 1920
(C) Karachi Session, 1931
(D) Lahore Session, 1929

**284.** Match the items in List I with those in List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Revolutionary)
P. Bhagat Singh
Q. Surya Sen
R. Ram Prasad Bismil
S. V.D. Savarkar
List II: (Associated Act/Event)
1. Kakori Conspiracy
2. Chittagong Armoury Raid
3. Abhinav Bharat Society
4. Lahore Conspiracy Case (killing of Saunders)
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**285.** The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A): Gandhi undertook the Dandi March in 1930.
Reason (R): The march was a protest against the unjust British monopoly on the production and sale of salt, a basic commodity.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**286.** What was the primary difference between the Communist Party of India and the Congress Socialist Party?
(A) The CSP was a separate party, while the CPI was part of the Congress.
(B) The CSP believed in Gandhian methods, while the CPI did not.
(C) The CPI wanted dominion status, while the CSP wanted complete independence.
(D) The CSP was formed as a group within the Congress to push it towards socialism, while the CPI was an independent party affiliated with the Comintern.

**287.** Which plan formed the basis for the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan?
(A) The Mountbatten Plan (June 3rd Plan)
(B) The Cripps Mission Plan
(C) The Cabinet Mission Plan
(D) The Wavell Plan

**288.** The linguistic reorganization of states in 1956 led to the creation of:
(A) 25 states and 7 union territories.
(B) 14 states and 6 union territories.
(C) 20 states and 5 union territories.
(D) 12 states and 8 union territories.

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# ANSWERS

1. (B) British administrative and political unification of the Indian subcontinent.
British rule unified the subcontinent administratively and politically for the first time on such a massive scale. This unity allowed people from diverse regions to communicate and share common grievances. Improved transport and communication further facilitated the exchange of nationalist ideas, creating a shared sense of identity among the educated class across the vast Indian territories during this era.

2. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
The early nationalist movement was primarily led by the Western-educated middle class, including professionals like lawyers and teachers. They utilized modern ideas of democracy and liberty to challenge colonial rule. Conversely, the traditional landed aristocracy and feudal lords often remained loyal to the British or indifferent to modern nationalist ideologies during this formative period of political consciousness in India.

3. (C) It was a completely unified and well-coordinated national war of independence from the outset.
While the uprising posed a significant challenge to colonial authority, it lacked a centralized leadership and a unified national vision. Diverse groups joined the revolt for various local grievances rather than a collective national identity. Many regions and significant sections of the Indian population remained neutral or even supported the administration, preventing the movement from being fully coordinated or nationwide.

4. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The introduction of the Enfield rifle acted as the immediate spark for the uprising because the new cartridges required biting before use. Rumors suggested these were greased with animal fats offensive to both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. This perceived threat to their religious purity unified the sepoys in a sudden and violent rejection of the military authorities' specific directives.

5. (C) Transfer of Indian administration from the East India Company to the British Crown.
A major administrative consequence of the uprising was the Government of India Act of 1858. This legislation ended the rule of the East India Company and transferred power directly to the British monarchy. The office of the Secretary of State for India was created, and the Governor-General was henceforth designated as the Viceroy to serve as the Crown's representative.

(B) Bakht Khan - Bareilly.
Bakht Khan was a veteran soldier who led the rebel forces from Bareilly to Delhi, where he assumed the role of commander-in-chief. He provided much-needed military leadership to the aging Mughal emperor. His efforts were crucial in organizing the defense of the capital against the advancing British troops during the intense and prolonged siege of the city in 1857.

7. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Mangal Pandey initiated the revolt at Barrackpore, while Maulvi Ahmed Ullah was a fierce leader in Faizabad. Rani Laxmibai famously led the struggle in Jhansi against the annexation of her state. Bakht Khan served as the commander-in-chief in Delhi. These individuals represented the diverse geographic and functional leadership present during the widespread and violent rebellion against colonial rule.

8. (A) The active participation of the educated middle class on the side of the rebels.
The educated middle class largely stayed away from the rebellion, viewing it as a backward-looking movement. Their lack of support deprived the revolt of modern intellectual leadership and organizational skills. The uprising primarily suffered from a lack of unified ideology, superior British military resources, and the neutrality or active opposition of many Indian princes and diverse social and regional sections.

NODIA

(B) The Constitution of India was adopted.
(C) The states were reorganized on a linguistic basis.
(D) The rulers of princely states agreed to join either the Dominion of India or Pakistan.

**300.** The Sino-Indian War of 1962 was a major setback for India's foreign policy and cast a shadow on the leadership of:
(A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(B) Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) Lal Bahadur Shastri
(D) Indira Gandhi

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**289.** Which of the following is NOT one of the five principles of 'Panchsheel'?
(A) Mutual non-aggression
(B) Creation of a joint military command
(C) Peaceful co-existence
(D) Mutual non-interference in internal affairs

**290.** The concept of "economic nationalism" during the freedom struggle involved:
(A) Promoting indigenous (Swadeshi) industries and boycotting foreign goods.
(B) Advocating for a free-trade policy with Britain.
(C) Seeking more loans and investments from Britain.
(D) Demanding the nationalization of all agricultural land.

**291.** The immediate cause of the 1857 Revolt was the issue of greased cartridges, but the underlying causes were manifold. Which one of the following was NOT an underlying cause?
(A) Economic exploitation leading to rural indebtedness.
(B) Political expansionism through policies like the Doctrine of Lapse.
(C) The success of the Indian National Congress in uniting the masses.
(D) Social and religious interference by the British.

**292.** The Kuka Rebellion (Namdhari Movement) in Punjab had which of the following as part of its program?
(A) Cooperation with British administration.
(B) Seeking help from the French.
(C) Demanding separate electorates for Sikhs.
(D) Boycott of British education, laws, and products.

**293.** Which Satyagraha was launched by Gandhi to support the cause of peasants whose crops had failed and who were demanding revenue remission?
(A) Champaran Satyagraha
(B) Bardoli Satyagraha
(C) Kheda Satyagraha
(D) Vaikom Satyagraha

**294.** The Extremist phase of nationalism is associated with all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The use of religious festivals like the Ganapati festival to mobilize people.
(B) The method of 'prayer, petition, and protest'.
(C) The call for 'Swaraj' as the ultimate goal.
(D) The promotion of national education and boycott of British schools.

**295.** The contribution of revolutionaries in India and abroad was significant because it:
(A) Led to a peaceful transfer of power.
(B) Was fully endorsed and supported by the Moderate leaders of the Congress.
(C) Succeeded in establishing a parallel government throughout India.
(D) Kept the spirit of resistance alive and inspired numerous youths.

NODIA

**296.** Mahatma Gandhi's first major public appearance and speech in India was at the opening of which university?
(A) Banaras Hindu University
(B) Calcutta University
(C) Aligarh Muslim University
(D) Madras University

**297.** Consider the following statements about Leftist politics in India:
1. It introduced the ideology of socialism and communism into the nationalist discourse.
2. It was solely focused on urban industrial workers and ignored the peasantry.
3. Leftist groups sometimes had serious ideological conflicts with the mainstream Congress movement.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**298.** The most significant outcome of the development of communal politics in the 1940s was the:
(A) Partition of British India into India and Pakistan
(B) Lucknow Pact
(C) Formation of the Constituent Assembly
(D) Quit India Movement

**299.** The Instrument of Accession was the legal document by which:
(A) India gained independence from Britain.

**9.** (C) Punjab
The Kuka rebellion originated in the Punjab region as a socio-religious purification movement within Sikhism. Under the leadership of Baba Ram Singh, it gradually evolved into a political struggle against British rule. The followers emphasized wearing homespun clothes and boycotted British goods and services, marking an early instance of non-cooperation and the desire for the restoration of Sikh sovereignty.

**10.** (D) 1, 2, and 3
The Kuka movement sought Sikh restoration, while the Naga resistance responded to administrative intrusion and social changes. Similarly, the Ahom rebellion was a direct reaction by the local nobility to the British failure to vacate Assam after the Burmese war. These movements demonstrate the varied nature of resistance, ranging from restorationist goals to defending traditional tribal ways of life effectively.

**11.** (D) Vasudeva Balavant Fadake
Vasudeva Balavant Fadake is remembered for organizing the Ramoshis and other tribal communities in Maharashtra into an armed insurgent group. He aimed to overthrow British rule by disrupting communications and attacking government treasuries. His struggle is often considered a precursor to the later revolutionary movements in India, highlighting the early and intense local dissatisfaction with the oppressive colonial administrative policies.

**12.** (B) British road construction through Khasi hills linking Brahmaputra Valley and Sylhet.
The Khasi rebellion was sparked by British plans to construct a strategic road through the Khasi hills. This project threatened the autonomy of the local tribes and brought many outsiders into their territory. Led by U Tirot Sing, the Khasi people engaged in a guerrilla war against the British to protect their ancestral lands and traditional way of life from intrusion.

**13.** (A) 4, 2, 1, 3
The Ahom rebellion occurred first in 1828, followed by the Kol rebellion in 1831. The Santhal rebellion took place in 1855, and the Munda rebellion reached its peak at the end of the nineteenth century. This chronological sequence illustrates the long and persistent history of resistance by different ethnic and tribal groups against the expansion and policies of colonial rule.

**14.** (D) Birsa Munda
Birsa Munda led the powerful 'Ulgulan' or Great Tumult in the Chhotanagpur region against the destruction of traditional land systems. He mobilized the Munda tribe against the exploitation by moneylenders and the colonial administration. Birsa is revered as a folk hero who sought to establish a Munda Raj and restore the cultural and economic rights of his people through resistance.

**15.** (A) Bhila rebellion - Vasudeva Balavant Fadake
The Bhil rebellion was a tribal uprising in Western India, whereas Vasudeva Balavant Fadake was a revolutionary leader who organized the Ramoshis. The Santhal rebellion was indeed led by Sidhu and Kanhu, and the Neel rebellion involved leaders like the Biswas brothers. The Pabna movement was a peasant struggle in Bengal against zamindari oppression, correctly associated with figures like Ishan Chandra Roy.

**16.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Neel Rebellion was a successful peasant uprising because it forced the government to acknowledge the plight of the cultivators. By refusing to grow indigo and facing violent repression, the peasants successfully drew national attention. The resulting Indigo Commission confirmed the exploitative nature of the system, leading to legal changes that ensured cultivators could no longer be forced into indigo production.

**17.** (B) The oppressive practices of the zamindars.
The Pabna movement was an agrarian struggle where peasants organized themselves against the illegal demands of the landlords. The zamindars often charged rents beyond legal limits and prevented tenants from acquiring occupancy rights. The movement was notable for its legalistic approach, as peasants used the courts and refused to pay illegal cesses, seeking protection under the existing land revenue laws.

NODIA

**36.** (D) The influence of the Russian Revolution of 1917.
The Russian Revolution of 1917 had a profound impact on Indian intellectuals and nationalists. It demonstrated that a revolutionary movement of workers and peasants could successfully overthrow a powerful regime. This event inspired the development of Leftist ideology in India, leading to the formation of socialist and communist groups that sought to link the national struggle with radical social and economic changes.

**37.** (C) The Communist Party of India
The Communist Party of India was a major Leftist organization formed in the 1920s to advocate for the interests of workers and peasants. It sought to organize the masses on class lines and promote the goal of a socialist society. The CPI played a significant role in the trade union movement and offered a radical perspective on the struggle for national liberation.

**38.** (B) They focused on organizing industrial workers and peasants on class lines.
Leftists in the Indian freedom movement emphasized the importance of mobilizing the working class and the peasantry. They believed that national independence would be incomplete without the economic emancipation of the masses. By forming trade unions and kisan sabhas, they brought social and economic issues to the forefront of the nationalist agenda, advocating for radical land reforms and labor rights.

**39.** (D) The 'divide and rule' policy of the British.
Communal politics in modern India was significantly fueled by the British administrative strategy of 'divide and rule'. By treating religious communities as separate political entities and introducing separate electorates, the colonial government encouraged communal identities. This policy was designed to prevent a unified nationalist front by creating competition and distrust between different religious groups, particularly Hindus and Muslims, over political representation.

**40.** (A) The formation of the All-India Muslim League in 1906.
The formation of the All-India Muslim League in 1906 was a major turning point in the development of communal politics. It was established to protect the interests of Muslims and promote loyalty to the British government. Over time, the League's demands evolved from political safeguards and separate electorates to the eventual call for a separate state, fundamentally changing the course of the movement.

**41.** (C) It was solely a result of inherent and ancient animosity between Hindus and Muslims.
Communalism was a modern political phenomenon rather than a product of ancient religious hatred. It was fostered by colonial policies, such as separate electorates, and exploited by political leaders to mobilize support for their specific interests. The idea that different religious communities were separate nations was a later development that gained momentum due to complex social, economic, and political factors during the colonial era.

**42.** (A) The integration of more than 500 princely states into the Indian Union.
After independence, the most urgent challenge was ensuring the geographical and political unity of India. More than five hundred princely states had the option to join India, Pakistan, or remain independent. The successful integration of these states, largely orchestrated by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was essential to create a cohesive nation and prevent the fragmentation of the subcontinent into numerous small entities.

**43.** (D) The ruler of the state hesitating to accede to either India or Pakistan.
At the time of independence, Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir initially hoped to remain independent. However, an invasion by tribal raiders supported by Pakistan forced him to seek military assistance from India. His subsequent signing of the Instrument of Accession led to a military conflict and a long-standing dispute that has since remained a central issue in South Asian geopolitics.

**44.** (B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar served as the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution.

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**27.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The Anushilan Samiti was a major revolutionary organization in Bengal, while the Ghadar Party operated from San Francisco to liberate India. Abhinav Bharat was active in Maharashtra, and the Hindustan Republican Association focused its efforts in Punjab and Northern India. These organizations utilized various methods, including armed struggle and international networking, to challenge the foundations of the colonial British administration.

**28.** (B) Overthrowing British rule through armed struggle and individual heroic acts.
Early revolutionary organizations believed that constitutional methods were ineffective against the British. They sought to inspire the masses through individual acts of bravery, such as the assassination of oppressive officials and daring robberies to fund their activities. Their ideology was rooted in a deep sense of patriotism and the conviction that only a violent, armed struggle could end foreign colonial occupation.

**29.** (C) Dadabhai Naoroji
Dadabhai Naoroji was a Moderate leader known for his 'Drain of Wealth' theory and constitutional advocacy. In contrast, Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, and Ram Prasad Bismil were dedicated revolutionaries who believed in armed struggle. They were part of organizations like the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association and carried out militant activities to challenge the British government and inspire the Indian youth.

**30.** (D) 1, 2, and 3
The Ghadar Party worked internationally to incite rebellion, while the Kakori case was a bold attempt by revolutionaries to secure funds for their cause. Surya Sen led the daring Chittagong Armoury Raid, which aimed to seize weapons and challenge British military prestige. These events highlight the diverse and coordinated efforts of revolutionaries to use militant tactics to destabilize the colonial administrative system.

**31.** (A) The Champaran Satyagraha
The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 was Mahatma Gandhi's first successful experiment with non-violent resistance in India. By taking up the cause of indigo farmers against the oppressive Tinkathia system, he demonstrated the efficacy of Satyagraha. This event marked his formal entry into the Indian political scene and established his leadership style, which emphasized truth, non-violence, and mass mobilization for justice.

**32.** (B) Non-violent protest based on truth and moral force.
Satyagraha is a philosophy and practice of non-violent resistance developed by Mahatma Gandhi. It is based on the conviction that truth is the ultimate power and that moral force can overcome physical oppression. A satyagrahi seeks to convert the opponent through suffering and reason rather than coercion. This method became the cornerstone of the Indian freedom struggle under Gandhi's influential leadership.

**33.** (B) The Non-Cooperation Movement
Mahatma Gandhi called off the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1922 following the Chauri Chaura incident, where a mob set fire to a police station, killing several constables. Gandhi believed that the movement was turning violent and that the masses were not yet fully prepared for disciplined non-violence. This decision was controversial but reflected his uncompromising commitment to the principle of absolute non-violence.

**34.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Subhashchandra Bose resigned from the presidency of the Congress because his radical views on the freedom struggle clashed with the more cautious approach of Mahatma Gandhi and the old guard. He wanted to take advantage of the Second World War to launch a mass movement, while the majority preferred a different strategy. This disagreement led to his departure and subsequent formation of the Forward Bloc.

**35.** (C) Captain Mohan Singh
The Indian National Army was originally the brainchild of Captain Mohan Singh, an officer of the British Indian Army who was captured by the Japanese. He organized Indian prisoners of war into a force to fight for India's independence. Although Subhashchandra Bose later took over and revitalized the INA, its initial foundation was laid by Singh during the Malayan campaign of World War II.

NODIA

**53.** (C) Vasudeva Balavant Fadake rebellion
While the Kol, Munda, and Khasi rebellions were specifically tribal movements against the intrusion into their lands and traditions, the rebellion led by Vasudeva Balavant Fadake was different. Fadake was an educated man who organized various groups, including the Ramoshis, with the explicit political goal of overthrowing British rule. His struggle is characterized more as an early revolutionary movement than a purely tribal uprising.

**54.** (A) 2, 3, 1, 4
The Champaran Satyagraha in 1917 was Gandhi's first major action, followed by the Kheda Satyagraha in 1918. The Bardoli Satyagraha took place later in 1928, and the Salt Satyagraha occurred in 1930. This sequence reflects the progressive expansion of Gandhian methods from localized peasant issues to a nationwide mass movement that directly challenged the foundations of the colonial British administrative system.

**55.** (D) Advocacy for Swaraj via methods like boycott and mass agitation.
The Extremists within the Indian National Congress sought 'Swaraj' or self-rule as their primary goal. They rejected the Moderate policy of petitions and instead advocated for more assertive methods such as the boycott of British goods and the promotion of Swadeshi. They believed that independence could only be achieved through mass mobilization and a spirit of self-sacrifice among the common people.

**56.** (A) Growing differences between the Moderate and Extremist wings of the Congress.
The Surat Split was the result of long-standing ideological and tactical differences between the Moderates and Extremists. While the Moderates wanted to keep the movement within constitutional bounds, the Extremists advocated for expanding the Swadeshi and boycott movements. These tensions reached a breaking point at the 1907 session, leading to a temporary division that significantly impacted the organized nationalist struggle.

**57.** (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Sardar Patel led the Bardoli Satyagraha, while Lala Hardayal was a key figure in the Ghadar Party. Subhashchandra Bose was instrumental in reviving the Indian National Army, and Ishan Chandra Roy was a leader of the Pabna Movement. These associations demonstrate the diverse range of leadership across various peasant, revolutionary, and nationalist movements that collectively challenged British colonial rule in India.

**58.** (A) Subhashchandra Bose
Subhashchandra Bose formed the Forward Bloc in 1939 after resigning from the presidency of the Indian National Congress. He intended for this new faction to be a more radical and militant wing within the nationalist movement. His goal was to mobilize the Indian masses for a final and decisive struggle against British rule, particularly by taking advantage of the unfolding global conflict.

**59.** (D) They were strong advocates for a unified, independent India and opposed partition.
While Leftists were often critical of the mainstream leadership, they generally supported the cause of a unified, independent India. However, the statement is incorrect because some sections of the Left, particularly the Communist Party of India, at one point supported the idea of national self-determination for different linguistic and cultural groups, which was later interpreted as providing intellectual support for the partition.

**60.** (B) Communal violence and strengthened the case for partition.
The "Direct Action Day" called by the Muslim League in August 1946 led to horrific communal riots in Calcutta and other parts of the country. This violence significantly increased the distrust between Hindus and Muslims and made the prospect of a united independent India seem increasingly impossible. The events of that day effectively accelerated the move toward the final partition of the subcontinent.

**61.** (C) The Instrument of Accession
The Instrument of Accession was the legal document through which the rulers of the princely states agreed to join the newly independent Dominion of India. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel used a combination of persuasion, diplomacy, and the threat of popular pressure to convince

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His profound legal knowledge and commitment to social justice were instrumental in shaping the fundamental document of the republic. He played a key role in ensuring that the constitution included strong protections for fundamental rights and specific provisions for the upliftment of marginalized sections of Indian society.

**45.** (B) Achieving planned economic development and industrialization.
The Five-Year Plans were central to India's post-independence economic strategy. The government aimed to achieve rapid development through state-led planning, focusing on agriculture, infrastructure, and heavy industries. This approach was intended to modernize the economy, reduce poverty, and ensure an equitable distribution of resources, reflecting the socialist ideals that influenced many early leaders of the newly independent nation.

**46.** (D) States Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission)
The reorganization of Indian states on a linguistic basis was undertaken following the recommendations of the States Reorganisation Commission, headed by Fazl Ali. The commission acknowledged that language was a powerful factor for administrative convenience and cultural identity. The resulting 1956 Act led to the creation of states based on major languages, which helped in stabilizing the federal structure of the country.

**47.** (A) Non-Alignment.
India's foreign policy under Jawaharlal Nehru was guided by the principle of Non-Alignment. During the Cold War, India chose not to join any military alliance led by either the United States or the Soviet Union. This policy aimed to protect India's sovereignty, promote global peace, and allow the nation to maintain independent relations with all countries for its own developmental needs.

**48.** (B) Jhalkaribai
Jhalkaribai was a courageous soldier and a trusted aide to Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi. She played a pivotal role in the defense of Jhansi during the 1857 revolt. Due to her striking resemblance to the Rani, she often disguised herself as the queen to deceive the British forces, allowing Laxmibai to escape and continue the struggle from other strategic locations.

**49.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Moderate leaders focused on constitutional methods, believing that the British would eventually grant reforms if petitioned reasonably. However, the colonial administration often ignored these pleas, viewing them as signs of weakness. This lack of tangible success led to growing frustration within the nationalist movement, paving the way for the rise of the Extremists who advocated for more assertive and mass-based actions.

**50.** (A) Maharashtra and Rajasthan
The Bhil tribe, inhabiting the hilly regions of Maharashtra and Rajasthan, rose in rebellion against the British and local feudal lords multiple times. These uprisings were responses to the intrusion of colonial administration, high taxes, and the disruption of their traditional way of life. The Bhil resistance highlights the widespread nature of tribal discontent across different geographic regions of the vast Indian subcontinent.

**51.** (D) 1, 2, and 3
The rise of Indian nationalism was driven by economic exploitation, the spread of modern education, and a renewed pride in India's cultural heritage. British policies that drained India's wealth created widespread misery, while Western ideas of liberty inspired the educated elite. Simultaneously, the rediscovery of India's glorious past provided the psychological foundation for a modern national identity and a desire for self-rule.

**52.** (D) Lucknow and Faizabad
Maulvi Ahmed Ullah was a prominent and dedicated leader of the 1857 revolt in the regions of Lucknow and Faizabad. He was known for his ability to mobilize both sepoys and the civilian population against British rule. His fierce resistance and military skill made him one of the most formidable opponents of the colonial forces during the intense fighting in the Awadh region.

**18.** (A) The exploitative Tinkathia system.
In Champaran, the Tinkathia system forced peasants to cultivate indigo on three-twentieths of their land for European planters. This system was highly exploitative and left the farmers in poverty. Mahatma Gandhi's intervention led to a detailed inquiry that eventually forced the government to abolish the system and provide partial compensation to the affected peasants, marking a major victory for non-violent protest.

**19.** (C) Peasants demanding remission of revenue due to crop failure.
The Kheda Satyagraha was launched because the colonial authorities refused to grant revenue remission despite a total crop failure. According to the revenue code, farmers were entitled to relief if the yield was less than a quarter of the normal crop. Gandhi and Sardar Patel organized the peasants to withhold payment, demonstrating the power of organized non-violent resistance against administrative indifference.

**20.** (D) Protest against the arbitrary enhancement of land revenue by the government.
The Bardoli Satyagraha was a significant peasant movement in Gujarat against a massive twenty-two percent increase in land revenue. Led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the peasants refused to pay the taxes despite the forfeiture of their lands and cattle. The movement's disciplined non-violence forced the government to appoint a committee, which eventually reduced the revenue increase to a negligible amount.

**21.** (C) Providing a 'safety valve' for popular discontent and dialogue.
The 'safety valve' theory suggests that the Indian National Congress was founded with the encouragement of British officials like A.O. Hume. The objective was to provide a peaceful platform for the educated Indian elite to express their grievances. This was intended to prevent a violent outburst of popular discontent against British rule by channeling political energy into a constitutional and organized framework.

**22.** (B) Moderate
The initial phase of the Indian National Congress was dominated by the Moderates, who believed in constitutional methods of agitation. They sought reforms within the British administrative framework through petitions, speeches, and resolutions. Leaders of this era had faith in the British sense of justice and focused on administrative changes rather than demanding immediate and complete independence from the colonial government.

**23.** (D) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a prominent leader of the Moderate faction who advocated for gradual reforms through constitutional means. In contrast, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal were the main figures of the Extremist wing. The Extremists criticized the Moderates for their passive approach and advocated for more radical methods like boycott and mass mobilization to achieve Swaraj.

**24.** (A) Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal
The trio known as 'Lal-Bal-Pal' represented the assertive and radical leadership of the Extremist movement. Lala Lajpat Rai from Punjab, Bal Gangadhar Tilak from Maharashtra, and Bipin Chandra Pal from Bengal were instrumental in shifting the nationalist discourse. They promoted the ideas of Swadeshi, boycott, and national education, arguing that independence could only be achieved through mass action and self-reliance.

**25.** (C) Surat Session, 1907
The Surat Session is famous for the formal split between the Moderate and Extremist factions of the Congress. Disagreements over the methods of the Swadeshi movement and the choice of the Congress President led to a heated confrontation. This ideological divide weakened the organization for several years until the two groups were eventually reunited during the Lucknow Session nearly a decade later.

**26.** (A) Passive resistance and spiritual nationalism.
Aurobindo Ghosh was a key thinker of the Extremist phase, advocating for spiritual nationalism and the doctrine of passive resistance. He believed that the nation was a living entity and that the struggle for freedom was a spiritual duty. His writings encouraged Indians to boycott British institutions and goods, emphasizing the need for self-sacrifice and inner strength to achieve national liberation.

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the princes to sign it. This instrument was crucial in achieving the political and geographical integration of the diverse Indian territories.

**62.** (D) The 'Drain of Wealth' theory
The 'Drain of Wealth' theory, popularized by early nationalists like Dadabhai Naoroji, argued that British rule was systematically siphoning off India's resources to Britain. This economic critique was vital in providing a common ground for nationalist sentiment across different classes. It highlighted that India's poverty was not inevitable but a direct consequence of exploitative colonial policies, thus strengthening the demand for self-rule.

**63.** (A) Zamindars and moneylenders (dikus)
The Santhal rebellion was an intense reaction against the exploitation by outsiders, known as 'dikus', who were primarily zamindars and moneylenders. These groups, often supported by the colonial administration, took over Santhal lands through fraud and high-interest loans. The rebellion was a desperate attempt by the Santhals to regain their land and traditional rights from their immediate economic and administrative oppressors.

**64.** (B) Nana Saheb
Tatya Tope was a loyal and capable military commander for Nana Saheb, the leader of the 1857 revolt in Kanpur. After the fall of Kanpur, Tatya Tope continued the struggle using guerrilla tactics across Central India. His ability to evade British capture for a long time and his strategic cooperation with Rani Laxmibai made him a legendary figure of the uprising.

**65.** (B) First Anglo-Burmese War
The Ahom rebellion in 1828 was triggered by the British decision to annex Assam after the First Anglo-Burmese War. The British had previously promised to withdraw their forces once the war was over. The failure to fulfill this pledge led the Ahom nobility, who had lost their power and status, to rise in revolt under leaders like Gomdhar Konwar to restore their kingdom.

**66.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Bardoli Satyagraha was a major success that proved the power of non-violent resistance on a large scale. By successfully challenging the government's arbitrary tax hike, the movement demonstrated that an organized peasantry could win significant concessions. This success not only benefited the farmers of Bardoli but also catapulted Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the forefront of the national leadership.

**67.** (C) Both (A) and (B).
The split at the Surat Session was caused by deep-seated disagreements over both methods and leadership. The Extremists wanted to extend the boycott and Swadeshi movements nationwide, while the Moderates preferred a more localized approach. Additionally, the conflict over the choice of the Congress President for the session served as the immediate trigger that led to the formal division of the organization.

**68.** (D) V.D. Savarkar and his brother
Abhinav Bharat was a secret revolutionary society founded by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and his brother Ganesh Savarkar in Maharashtra. It was modeled after the 'Young Italy' movement and aimed to overthrow British rule through armed struggle. The organization was involved in several revolutionary acts and played a significant role in inspiring nationalist fervor among the youth of Western India during that period.

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**69.** (D) 1, 2, and 3
Gandhi's leadership was defined by three major mass movements. The Non-Cooperation Movement sought to paralyze the government through non-violent means. The Civil Disobedience Movement was famously inaugurated by the Salt Satyagraha to challenge unjust colonial laws. Finally, the Quit India Movement, with its powerful "Do or Die" slogan, demanded the immediate and complete withdrawal of the British from the Indian subcontinent.

**70.** (B) The British government's industrial policy
The rise of Leftist ideology in India was influenced by the global impact of the Russian Revolution, the growth of trade unions, and frustration with the pace of Gandhian movements. British industrial policy, which was largely exploitative, created the conditions for labor discontent but was not a factor that promoted Leftist ideas. Instead, these ideas emerged as a response to

**106.** (A) The economic emancipation of the peasants and workers.
Leftist organizations in the freedom movement believed that political independence would be meaningful only if it was accompanied by significant social and economic changes. They sought to link the struggle for liberation from the British with the struggle of workers and peasants against their internal oppressors, such as landlords and capitalists. Their goal was a socialist India where the masses were free from all forms of exploitation.

**107.** (D) The invasion of the state by tribal raiders supported by Pakistan.
Shortly after independence, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was invaded by armed tribal groups from Pakistan. This invasion forced the Maharaja, who was still undecided about accession, to seek urgent military help from the Indian government. The resulting accession of the state to India and the subsequent military intervention led to the first Indo-Pak war and the creation of a long-standing territorial dispute.

**108.** (B) The British government's efforts to promote Indian participation in governance.
While the British introduced some administrative reforms, these were often limited and designed to maintain control rather than promote genuine nationalism. The expansion of the social base of nationalism was primarily driven by common economic hardships, the innovative use of cultural and religious symbols by leaders like Tilak, and the effective mass mobilization strategies introduced by Mahatma Gandhi that brought diverse groups into the movement.

**109.** (C) It transformed into a political movement aiming to overthrow British rule and restore Sikh sovereignty.
Although the Kuka movement began as a socio-religious reform group focused on purifying Sikhism, it gradually adopted a strong political stance against British rule. Its leaders advocated for non-cooperation and the boycott of British goods and institutions. The movement's ultimate goal became the restoration of Sikh power, leading to a direct and often violent confrontation with the colonial administration in the Punjab region.

**110.** (D) Legal and largely non-violent struggle against illegal demands of landlords.
The Pabna Movement was a significant peasant struggle in Bengal that focused on using the legal system to fight against the illegal exactions of zamindars. The peasants formed agrarian leagues and collectively refused to pay rents that exceeded legal limits. Their approach was remarkably disciplined and centered on protecting their occupancy rights through organized legal action within the existing framework of land revenue laws.

**111.** (A) Lucknow, 1916
The formal split between the Moderates and Extremists that occurred in 1907 was eventually healed during the Lucknow Session of the Congress in 1916. Factors such as the death of prominent Moderate leaders and the changing political climate during World War I facilitated this reunification. This session was also significant for the signing of the Lucknow Pact with the Muslim League, creating a temporarily unified nationalist front.

**112.** (B) V.D. Savarkar - Nasik Conspiracy Case
V.D. Savarkar was famously associated with the Nasik Conspiracy Case, which involved the assassination of a British district magistrate by members of his secret society, Abhinav Bharat. This case highlighted the reach and impact of the revolutionary movement in Maharashtra. Other pairings in the options are incorrect, as Bhagat Singh is associated with the Lahore Conspiracy and Surya Sen with the Chittagong Armoury Raid.

**113.** (A) 1 and 2 only
The Indian National Army was primarily formed from Indian prisoners of war who were willing to fight against the British. It also featured a pioneering women's unit called the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. While the INA conducted significant military operations along the northeastern border of India, it did not succeed in liberating a large part of the mainland, and its activities ended with the Japanese surrender.

**114.** (A) The consistent efforts of the Indian National Congress to promote inter-faith harmony.
While the Congress did strive for national unity, the rise of communalism was driven by factors

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action, inspiring a generation of Indians to strive for complete independence.

**80.** (B) Incite rebellion among Indian soldiers and expatriates to overthrow British rule.
Indian revolutionaries abroad, such as those in the Ghadar Party, worked to organize a coordinated uprising against British rule from outside India. They sought to mobilize Indian immigrants and soldiers, particularly during the First World War, to return to India and launch an armed revolt. Their activities were aimed at utilizing international situations and external support to achieve the goal of national liberation.

**81.** (B) Ahmedabad Mill Strike
During the Ahmedabad Mill Strike of 1918, Mahatma Gandhi used a hunger strike for the first time as a political tool in India. He went on a fast to support the mill workers' demand for a higher wage hike and to prevent them from resorting to violence. The fast successfully pressured the mill owners to agree to an arbitration process that eventually resolved the dispute.

**82.** (A) Munda Rebellion
The term 'Ulgulan', meaning 'The Great Tumult', is specifically associated with the Munda rebellion led by Birsa Munda at the end of the nineteenth century. This movement was a powerful uprising against the disruption of traditional tribal land systems and the exploitation by outsiders. It remains a significant symbol of tribal resistance and the struggle for socio-economic justice in the history of modern India.

**83.** (C) Marxism-Leninism
The Communist Party of India was founded on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, which emphasized the role of the working class and the inevitability of class struggle. The party aimed to achieve a social and economic revolution alongside the struggle for national independence. Its ideology focused on the collective ownership of resources and the mobilization of the proletariat and peasantry to end exploitation.

**84.** (D) Indian Councils Act, 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms)
The Indian Councils Act of 1909, also known as the Morley-Minto Reforms, introduced the system of separate electorates for Muslims. This policy allowed Muslim voters to elect representatives from their own community for reserved seats. While presented as a reform, it is widely viewed as a crucial step in the British strategy of 'divide and rule', which deepened religious divisions in Indian politics.

**85.** (C) Hyderabad
The integration of Hyderabad into India was achieved through a police action codenamed 'Operation Polo' in 1948. The Nizam of Hyderabad had initially refused to join the Indian Union, leading to internal unrest and security concerns. The Indian government intervened militarily to restore order and ensure the accession of the state, which was essential for the territorial and political unity of the country.

**86.** (B) The de-industrialization of India and the ruin of traditional artisans and craftsmen.
A major economic grievance against British rule was the systematic de-industrialization of India. The influx of cheap, machine-made British textiles destroyed the traditional Indian handicraft industry, leaving millions of artisans without a livelihood. This economic ruin, combined with heavy land revenue and periodic famines, provided a strong material basis for the growth of nationalist sentiment across various sections of Indian society.

**87.** (D) Refused to use the newly introduced Enfield Rifle cartridges.
Mangal Pandey's act of defiance at Barrackpore was triggered by the introduction of the new Enfield rifle. He and other sepoys believed that the cartridges were greased with animal fat that would defile their religious purity. His refusal to use them and his subsequent attack on British officers marked the early, explosive beginning of the widespread military and civilian uprising of 1857.

**88.** (A) Naga Rebellion - Bengal
The Naga rebellion occurred in the North-Eastern frontier regions, not in Bengal. In contrast, the Kuka rebellion was centered in Punjab, the Ahom rebellion in Assam, and the Bhil rebellion in the hilly tracts of Maharashtra and Rajasthan. These movements highlight the diverse geographic locations where different communities rose against colonial policies

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**139.** (D) European liberal and democratic thought.
The ideology of the Moderate leaders was deeply influenced by Western liberal education and the democratic principles of the British parliamentary system. They admired British political traditions and believed that these ideals could be gradually introduced in India. Their reliance on constitutional methods, petitions, and the rule of law reflected their conviction that the British would eventually grant reforms if Indian demands were presented reasonably.

**140.** (B) Ghadar Party
The Ghadar Party was founded in San Francisco by Indian expatriates, primarily from the Punjab, with the goal of liberating India from British rule. It aimed to organize a coordinated armed rebellion among Indian soldiers and civilians during the First World War. This organization represents a significant international dimension of the Indian freedom struggle, demonstrating the organized and radical efforts of the Indian diaspora.

**141.** (C) The strategy of struggle-truce-struggle and mass mobilization.
Gandhi's leadership style involved periods of intense mass mobilization followed by phases of consolidation and negotiation. This 'struggle-truce-struggle' strategy allowed the movement to maintain momentum while preventing exhaustion among the participants. By focusing on non-violent direct action and involving diverse social groups, he successfully transformed the nationalist movement from an elite-led political activity into a truly nationwide mass struggle for freedom.

**142.** (D) Complete and immediate independence with a radical socio-economic programme.
Leftist groups in the freedom movement were among the first to demand 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence. They argued that political freedom must include a radical restructuring of society to benefit workers and peasants. Their advocacy for land reforms, nationalization of industries, and the abolition of feudal privileges offered a more revolutionary vision for the future of India than the more gradualist approach of many others.

**143.** (A) Cabinet Mission Plan
The Constituent Assembly was established based on the proposals of the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946. This plan provided a framework for a representative body to draft a constitution for a united independent India. Although the plan faced challenges and eventually led to partition, the Assembly it created continued its work to frame the fundamental law of the new Indian republic, representing various linguistic and cultural groups.

**144.** (B) Rani Laxmibai
Jhalkaribai was a brave and loyal soldier in the army of Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi. She is celebrated for her exceptional courage and for acting as a double for the Rani during the British siege of the Jhansi fort. Her similarity in appearance to the queen allowed her to deceive the enemy and provided the Rani with a crucial opportunity to escape and lead the resistance elsewhere.

**145.** (B) A Munda Raj by driving out the British and the dikus (outsiders).
The Munda rebellion, led by Birsa Munda, aimed at the total removal of British authority and the outsiders who had exploited the tribal people. Birsa envisioned the establishment of an independent 'Munda Raj' where the traditional land systems and cultural practices would be restored. His movement was a powerful assertion of tribal identity and a radical challenge to the economic and political foundations of colonial rule.

**146.** (A) The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood as a protest against the horrific Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919. In a powerful letter to the Viceroy, he stated that the time had come when badges of honor made their shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation. His decision was a significant moral gesture that highlighted the intense national outrage over the brutal actions of the colonial administration in Amritsar.

**147.** (A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
The Kheda Satyagraha took place in 1918, while the Surat Split occurred in 1907. The Muslim League was founded in 1906, and the Champaran Satyagraha happened in 1917. This

NODIA

resulting in the appointment of the States Reorganisation Commission shortly thereafter.

**98.** (A) China
The Panchsheel principles were first formally enunciated in a 1954 agreement between India and China regarding trade and intercourse with Tibet. These five principles focused on mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, and peaceful coexistence. While they were intended to provide a framework for friendly relations between the two countries, the principles later became a broader ideal for India's relations with other newly independent nations.

**99.** (C) The policy of ruthless conquest and expansion was renounced by the British.
Following the 1857 revolt, the British government issued the Queen's Proclamation of 1858, which promised to respect the rights and territories of the Indian princely states. The policy of annexation, exemplified by the Doctrine of Lapse, was abandoned. This shift was intended to win the loyalty of the Indian princes and ensure their support for the continued stability of British rule in India.

**100.** (D) Kanpur
Nana Saheb led the 1857 uprising in Kanpur, where he sought to regain his title and pension as the adopted son of the last Peshwa. He was supported by able commanders like Tatya Tope and Azimullah Khan. The rebellion in Kanpur was one of the most significant episodes of the revolt, characterized by intense fighting and a temporary victory for the rebel forces over the British.

**101.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Kol rebellion was a major tribal uprising in the Chhotanagpur region against the intrusion of colonial administration and the exploitation by outsiders. The transfer of their traditional lands to non-tribal farmers and the imposition of a new judicial system disrupted their social and economic order. These grievances led to a violent and organized resistance aimed at restoring their autonomy and traditional land rights.

**102.** (B) The Indian educated middle class and press
The Neel Rebellion was significant for receiving widespread support from the educated Indian middle class and the contemporary press. Intellectuals like Harish Chandra Mukherjee and writers like Dinabandhu Mitra used their platforms to highlight the extreme suffering of the indigo cultivators. This support helped in building a broader public opinion against the exploitative system, making it a landmark event in the history of Indian nationalism.

**103.** (D) Sending petitions and memorials to the British Parliament
The Extremists rejected the Moderate method of sending petitions and memorials, which they considered to be a form of 'political mendicancy'. Instead, they advocated for more assertive and mass-based tactics such as the boycott of British goods, the promotion of Swadeshi, and the establishment of national educational institutions. Their approach aimed at achieving self-reliance and putting direct pressure on the colonial administration through mass mobilization and social resistance.

**104.** (A) 4, 3, 2, 1
The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885, followed by the partition of Bengal in 1905. The Muslim League was established in 1906, and the formal split between the Moderates and Extremists occurred at the Surat session in 1907. This sequence illustrates the rapid intensification of political activity and organizational developments within the Indian nationalist movement during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**105.** (C) Revolution
The term 'Ghadar' literally means revolution or mutiny. The Ghadar Party adopted this name to signify its commitment to an armed uprising against British rule in India. Founded by Indian immigrants in North America, the party aimed to inspire a nationwide revolt among Indian soldiers and civilians, emphasizing that only a radical and violent struggle could achieve the goal of complete national independence.

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both colonial exploitation and internal social inequalities.

**71.** (D) Lahore, 1940
The Lahore Session of the Muslim League in 1940 is historic for passing the 'Pakistan Resolution'. This resolution formally demanded the creation of independent states for Muslims in the north-western and eastern zones of India. It marked a definitive shift in the League's objectives from seeking political safeguards within a united India to the demand for a separate and sovereign nation.

**72.** (A) To draft a constitution for independent India.
The primary mandate of the Constituent Assembly was to frame a constitution that would govern independent India. It brought together representatives from diverse backgrounds to debate and decide on the fundamental principles of the new republic. This process involved defining the rights of citizens, the structure of the government, and the relationship between the central authority and the various states.

**73.** (C) Jawaharlal Nehru
Jawaharlal Nehru, as India's first Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, was the primary architect of the policy of Non-Alignment. He believed that newly independent nations should not be subservient to any superpower bloc. His vision was to create a space for independent action and promote global peace through a policy that avoided military alliances while actively participating in international affairs.

**74.** (A) The East India Company
Bakht Khan had served for many years as a Subedar of artillery in the British East India Company's army before joining the 1857 revolt. His extensive military experience and training were invaluable when he took command of the rebel forces in Delhi. His professional background allowed him to bring a level of organization and discipline to the diverse groups of soldiers fighting against the British.

**75.** (D) The early British Historians' view
Early British historians often characterized the events of 1857 as a mere 'sepoy mutiny' driven by narrow religious grievances and limited to the military. This perspective aimed to downplay the widespread civilian participation and the broader political nature of the resistance. In contrast, later nationalist and Marxist interpretations highlighted the revolt as a more complex and significant challenge to the foundations of colonial rule.

**76.** (B) Precursor to the revolutionary movement in India.
Vasudeva Balavant Fadake's rebellion is often seen as a precursor to the modern revolutionary movement because of its explicit political objective of establishing an independent republic. Unlike many contemporary uprisings that were purely localized or restorationist, Fadake's movement aimed to unify different groups for a national cause. His use of armed struggle to achieve political independence set a significant precedent for future revolutionaries.

**77.** (C) 3/20th of their land.
The Tinkathia system required peasants in Champaran to grow indigo on three out of every twenty parts of their land. This arrangement was mandated by European planters and was highly unfavorable to the cultivators, who were paid meager amounts. The struggle against this specific exploitative system was the focus of Mahatma Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India, which successfully led to its abolition.

**78.** (D) They had immense faith in the British sense of justice and fair play.
The Moderate leaders believed that the British rule had many benefits for India and that colonial authorities would grant reforms if the Indian grievances were presented logically and peacefully. They aimed for gradual change within the legal framework and relied on constitutional agitation. Their approach was rooted in the hope that educating the British public about India's plight would eventually lead to justice.

**79.** (A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Bal Gangadhar Tilak famously declared that Swaraj was his birthright and that he would achieve it. This powerful slogan became a rallying cry for the nationalist movement and reflected the shift toward a more assertive and demanding stance against British rule. Tilak's leadership emphasized the need for self-reliance and mass

NODIA

that overwhelmed these efforts. The economic backwardness of many Muslims, the use of religious symbols in politics by various leaders, and the British policy of separate electorates all contributed to the growth of communal identities. These factors collectively encouraged the perception that the political interests of different religious groups were fundamentally incompatible.

**115.** (C) Outlined the philosophy and guiding principles for framing the Constitution.
The 'Objectives Resolution', moved by Jawaharlal Nehru, was a foundational document for the Constituent Assembly. it defined the core values of the future Indian republic, such as democracy, social justice, and national sovereignty. This resolution provided the ideological framework that guided the entire process of constitution-making, ensuring that the final document reflected the fundamental aspirations and ideals forged during the long struggle for independence.

**116.** (D) Agriculture, including irrigation and power projects
The First Five Year Plan prioritized the agricultural sector to address the critical food shortages facing the country at independence. By investing heavily in large-scale irrigation projects and power generation, the government aimed to build a strong foundation for food security and rural development. This focus was essential because the Indian economy was overwhelmingly agrarian and had suffered from long periods of stagnation under colonial rule.

**117.** (C) Maulvi Ahmed Ullah
Maulvi Ahmed Ullah of Faizabad was one of the most dedicated and feared leaders of the 1857 revolt. He possessed great military skill and was able to inspire widespread resistance against British forces in the Awadh region. The British administration considered him a major threat and placed a high reward on his head, reflecting his significant role and impact as a hero of the uprising.

**118.** (B) Rani Gaidinliu
Rani Gaidinliu was a young Naga leader who led a powerful spiritual and political movement against British rule in the early 1930s. Her struggle aimed at preserving traditional Naga culture and achieving freedom from colonial administrative control. She was eventually arrested and spent many years in prison, becoming a legendary figure of tribal resistance in Northeast India during the later phase of the nationalist movement.

**119.** (D) Famine Code
The Kheda Satyagraha was triggered by the British government's refusal to grant revenue relief according to the provisions of the Famine Code. Despite a widespread crop failure that met the criteria for remission, the authorities continued to demand full revenue payment. This administrative injustice led Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel to organize the peasants for a non-violent protest to demand their legal rights under the existing code.

**120.** (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a key figure in Moderate nationalism, while Bal Gangadhar Tilak led the Extremist wing. Bhagat Singh was a prominent revolutionary nationalist, and M.N. Roy was a leading figure in Leftist and socialist politics. These individuals represent the diverse ideological streams that coexisted and often competed within the broader landscape of the Indian freedom movement during different periods.

**121.** (C) Exposed colonial exploitation internationally and organized support for the cause.
Revolutionary activities abroad were crucial for drawing international attention to India's struggle for independence. Organizations like the Ghadar Party and centers like India House in London provided platforms to criticize British policies and build global networks of support. These efforts helped in internationalizing the Indian cause and demonstrated that the resistance to colonial rule had a significant and organized presence beyond the borders of India.

**122.** (A) Civil Disobedience Movement
The Dandi March, or Salt Satyagraha, was the inaugural and most famous event of the Civil Disobedience Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. By walking to the sea and making salt, Gandhi symbolically broke an unjust British law that affected every Indian. This act served as a powerful catalyst for a nationwide mass

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and administrative intrusions to protect their autonomy and traditional way of life.

**89.** (C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
The Neel Rebellion was a revolt against forced indigo cultivation, while the Pabna Movement was a legal struggle against zamindari oppression. The Champaran Satyagraha addressed the exploitative Tinkathia system, and the Kheda Satyagraha was a protest against the collection of land revenue during a famine. These movements represent the evolving nature of peasant resistance from spontaneous uprisings to organized non-violent mass struggles.

**90.** (A) Policy of 'political mendicancy' or begging for concessions.
The Extremists strongly criticized the Moderates for their reliance on petitions and prayers to achieve reforms. They termed this approach 'political mendicancy' and argued that it was ineffective against a colonial power. Instead, the Extremists advocated for self-reliance and more assertive forms of political action, believing that rights should be demanded and taken through mass pressure rather than being begged for.

**91.** (D) The Chittagong Armoury Raid
Chandrashekhar Azad was a key figure in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association and was involved in the Kakori Conspiracy and the revenge for Lala Lajpat Rai's death. However, he was not part of the Chittagong Armoury Raid, which was led by Surya Sen and his group in Bengal. Azad's activities were primarily centered in Northern India, where he led daring acts against the British authorities.

**92.** (B) Quit India Movement
Mahatma Gandhi gave the famous "Do or Die" call during the launch of the Quit India Movement in 1942. This slogan signaled a shift toward a more urgent and decisive phase of the freedom struggle. Gandhi urged Indians to either free the country or die in the attempt, reflecting the intense national desire for immediate and complete independence from British rule.

**93.** (D) 1, 2, and 3
Subhashchandra Bose was a dynamic leader who served twice as the Congress President before forming the Forward Bloc. During World War II, he established the Azad Hind government and revitalized the Indian National Army with help from Japan and Germany. His willingness to seek help from the Axis powers to liberate India demonstrated his radical commitment to achieving national independence by any means.

**94.** (D) A blend of nationalism and socialist ideals.
The Congress Socialist Party was formed within the INC to promote a socialist agenda for the nationalist movement. Its leaders believed that the struggle for freedom must include a commitment to social and economic equality. They sought to push the Congress toward more radical positions on land reforms and workers' rights, aiming for a future independent India that was egalitarian and socialist.

NODIA

**95.** (A) Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations who could not live together in one country.
The two-nation theory argued that Hindus and Muslims in India constituted two distinct and separate nations based on their religion and culture. This ideology suggested that their interests were inherently different and that they could not peacefully coexist within a single democratic state. This concept became the primary intellectual and political justification for the demand for partition and the creation of Pakistan.

**96.** (B) Two years, eleven months, and eighteen days
The framing of the Indian Constitution was an exhaustive and meticulous process that took nearly three years. The Constituent Assembly met for multiple sessions to discuss and finalize every article of the document. This period allowed for extensive debates and consensus-building, ensuring that the constitution reflected the diverse aspirations of the Indian people and provided a robust framework for the newly independent republic.

**97.** (B) Andhra Pradesh
Potti Sriramulu's fast unto death in 1952 was a critical event that forced the Indian government to create the first linguistic state, Andhra Pradesh. His sacrifice highlighted the intense demand for reorganizing states based on language. This event led to a wider realization of the need for a systematic reorganization of Indian states,

**131.** (C) A Federal Republic through armed revolution.
The Hindustan Republican Association was founded with the explicit goal of overthrowing British rule through an organized armed struggle. Its members aimed to establish a Federal Republic of the United States of India based on principles of universal suffrage. Their ideology combined intense patriotism with a desire for a democratic and egalitarian state, reflecting the influence of contemporary revolutionary movements and republican ideals on the Indian youth.

**132.** (D) Creating massive sympathy for the INA and uniting diverse political groups.
The INA trials held at the Red Fort backfired on the British by creating a wave of unprecedented national unity. Instead of being viewed as traitors, the INA officers were hailed as heroes by the Indian public. The trials led to massive protests across the country, bringing together different political parties and religious communities in a common cause, which significantly weakened the British hold over the Indian military.

**133.** (D) 1, 2, and 3
The Communist Party of India was formally established in 1925 and became a major force in organizing workers and peasants. Its leaders were frequently at odds with the mainstream Congress over ideological issues and the pace of the movement. The Meerut Conspiracy Case was a significant attempt by the British to suppress this rising influence by arresting and trying many prominent communist and labor leaders.

**134.** (B) It was a modern ideology that used religious differences as a tool for political mobilization and contestation for power.
Communalism in modern India was not an ancient or inevitable phenomenon but a modern political ideology. It emerged in the context of colonial rule as various groups competed for limited political and economic opportunities. By framing these interests in religious terms, leaders could mobilize broad support. This process was further encouraged by British policies, such as separate electorates, which institutionalized religious identity as a basis for political representation.

**135.** (D) A plebiscite in which the population voted to join India.
The Nawab of Junagadh initially decided to accede to Pakistan despite his state having a Hindu majority and being surrounded by Indian territory. This decision led to a popular uprising and the Nawab eventually fled to Pakistan. The Indian government subsequently took over the administration and held a plebiscite, where the overwhelming majority of the people voted in favor of joining the Indian Union.

**136.** (A) Formation of a military alliance to counter superpowers.
The Panchsheel principles were designed to promote peaceful coexistence and avoid military conflicts. They emphasized mutual respect for territorial integrity, non-aggression, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Formation of military alliances was contrary to the spirit of Panchsheel and the broader policy of Non-Alignment, which sought to maintain national sovereignty by avoiding participation in the power blocs of the Cold War.

**137.** (C) The formation of the Indian National Congress.
The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885, nearly three decades after the 1857 revolt. Therefore, it could not have been a cause of the uprising. The revolution was instead driven by deep-seated grievances related to political annexations, economic exploitation, and perceived threats to social and religious traditions. These factors combined to create a widespread sense of discontent that exploded into the military and civilian rebellion.

**138.** (A) The local zamindars and moneylenders (dikus) as well as the British administration that supported them.
The Santhal rebellion was primarily a struggle for economic survival against the exploitation by outsiders, known as 'dikus'. These moneylenders and landlords, often acting with the support of the colonial administrative and judicial systems, took over tribal lands through high-interest debts. The rebellion was a desperate and violent attempt by the Santhals to rid their lands of these oppressors and restore their traditional rights.

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movement of non-violent resistance against the foundations of colonial administrative authority.

**123.** (D) They were in complete agreement with the Gandhian strategy of non-violence and class collaboration.
Leftists often had ideological disagreements with Mahatma Gandhi, particularly regarding his emphasis on non-violence and the idea of class collaboration. While they participated in the nationalist struggle, they believed in the necessity of class struggle to achieve true social and economic justice. They frequently criticized the Congress leadership for what they perceived as a bourgeois bias and a lack of commitment to radical land and labor reforms.

**124.** (B) A three-tiered structure with a weak central government.
The Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946 proposed a complex federal structure to keep India united while addressing the concerns of various groups. It envisioned a three-tier system comprising a central government with limited powers, groups of provinces, and individual provinces. This plan was a final attempt by the British to find a compromise between the demands of the Congress and the Muslim League before partition.

**125.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The reorganization of states was a massive and necessary task because the existing provincial boundaries under British rule were often arbitrary and based on administrative or military convenience. These boundaries frequently cut across linguistic and cultural regions, leading to demands for new states that better reflected local identities. Creating linguistic states was seen as essential for promoting democratic participation and ensuring administrative efficiency in the new republic.

**126.** (D) Led to the 'drain of wealth' from India to Britain.
Early nationalist thinkers like Dadabhai Naoroji argued that British rule was causing a systematic 'drain of wealth' from India. This critique suggested that India's economic resources were being transferred to Britain through various means without an adequate return. This concept became a central pillar of economic nationalism, providing a powerful argument that Indian poverty was a direct result of exploitative colonial policies rather than internal failures.

**127.** (A) Delhi
The fall of Delhi in September 1857 was a major strategic and psychological blow to the rebels. As the symbolic center of the uprising and the seat of the Mughal emperor, its loss signified the beginning of the end for the coordinated resistance. The recapture of the city by British forces allowed them to shift their focus to other centers of rebellion and gradually re-establish colonial authority.

**128.** (B) Khasi Rebellion
U Tirot Sing was the heroic leader of the Khasi people in their rebellion against British road construction through their ancestral hills. He successfully organized a prolonged guerrilla war that challenged the superior military might of the colonial forces for several years. His resistance remains a significant chapter in the history of tribal struggles in Northeast India against the intrusion and expansion of British administrative control.

**129.** (B) The withdrawal of a newly enhanced land revenue tax.
The Bardoli Satyagraha was primarily a protest against the government's decision to increase land revenue by twenty-two percent in the Bardoli district. Peasants, led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, refused to pay the increased tax, arguing that it was arbitrary and unjust. The movement's success in forcing a reduction of the tax hike became a major victory for non-violent mass protest and elevated Patel's national leadership.

**130.** (B) Pondicherry
After a period of intense activity as a revolutionary nationalist leader in Bengal, Aurobindo Ghosh eventually withdrew from politics and moved to Pondicherry. There, he established an ashram and devoted the rest of his life to the development of Integral Yoga and spiritual philosophy. His transition from political activism to spiritual leadership marked a significant change in his career but his early ideas continued to inspire many.

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timeline reflects the sequence of key events that shaped the early twentieth-century nationalist movement, from the emergence of new political organizations to the first major experiments with non-violent mass resistance under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

**148.** (D) Newly emerging communists like S.A. Dange and M.N. Roy
The Kanpur Conspiracy Case was a trial initiated by the British government to suppress the growing influence of communist ideas in India. Several prominent leaders were accused of conspiring to overthrow British rule and establish a revolutionary organization. This case was part of a broader administrative effort to curb radical and labor movements that were increasingly challenging the status quo of colonial rule during the 1920s.

**149.** (C) The intransigence of the Muslim League on the issue of representation in the Executive Council.
The Wavell Plan and the subsequent Simla Conference failed because the Muslim League insisted that it should have the sole right to nominate all Muslim members to the proposed Executive Council. The Congress rejected this demand, as it would have compromised its secular identity and excluded its own Muslim leaders. This deadlock over communal representation prevented any agreement on constitutional changes and the formation of an interim government.

**150.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
At the time of independence, the Indian economy was severely underdeveloped and heavily dependent on a stagnant agricultural sector. Widespread food shortages and a growing population made agricultural development the most urgent priority for the new government. Therefore, the First Five Year Plan focused on irrigation, fertilizers, and agricultural modernization to ensure food security and provide a stable base for future industrial growth.

**151.** (D) The partition of Bengal in 1905.
The partition of Bengal was a major catalyst for the rise of extremist nationalism. This administrative move was perceived as a deliberate attempt to weaken the nationalist movement by dividing people on religious lines. The widespread outrage led to the launch of the Swadeshi and boycott movements, providing a platform for Extremist leaders like Tilak and Pal to advocate for more radical methods of resistance.

**152.** (A) Santhal Rebellion - Sidhu and Kanhu
The Santhal Rebellion was led by the brothers Sidhu and Kanhu against the exploitation by moneylenders and the British administration. In contrast, the Ahom rebellion was led by Gomdhar Konwar, and the Munda rebellion by Birsa Munda. Vasudeva Balavant Fadake was associated with the Ramoshi resistance. These pairings identify the key leadership that emerged during different regional and tribal uprisings against colonial authority and economic oppression.

**153.** (C) Inspiring the youth to make sacrifices for the motherland and challenging the myth of British invincibility.
While the revolutionary movement did not achieve mass mobilization or immediate independence, its impact was significant in psychological terms. The heroic acts and self-sacrifice of young revolutionaries inspired a deep sense of patriotism and defiance among the Indian youth. Their actions challenged the perceived invincibility of the British colonial power and kept the spirit of militant resistance alive, providing a radical alternative to constitutional politics.

NODIA

**154.** (A) Rule over self via individual self-control, leading to political independence.
For Mahatma Gandhi, 'Swaraj' was a multifaceted concept that went beyond mere political independence from the British. It meant 'self-rule' or 'rule over oneself' through individual self-control and moral development. He believed that true freedom would be achieved only when Indians could govern themselves as individuals and as a community based on the principles of truth, non-violence, and social harmony.

**155.** (D) Congress was seen as bourgeois and not committed to radical social change.
Leftist groups often criticized the Indian National Congress for its perceived bourgeois character and its reliance on the support of landlords and capitalists. They felt that the Congress leadership

**204.** (B) The British policy of 'divide and rule'.
The split in the Congress at Surat in 1907 was a major victory for the British policy of 'divide and rule' in the short term. By successfully driving a wedge between the Moderate and Extremist factions, the colonial administration weakened the unified nationalist movement. This division allowed the British to adopt a policy of repressing the Extremists while offering limited concessions to the Moderates, effectively stalling the organized struggle for several years.

**205.** (C) Bengal
The Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar were the most prominent revolutionary organizations based in Bengal. They were secret societies that believed in armed struggle and individual acts of bravery to challenge British rule. These organizations were involved in several daring acts, including political assassinations and dacoities to fund their activities, and played a significant role in inspiring revolutionary fervor among the youth of Bengal during the early twentieth century.

**206.** (D) The Chauri Chaura incident where a police station was set on fire.
Mahatma Gandhi abruptly called off the Non-Cooperation Movement in February 1922 following the Chauri Chaura incident. In this event, a mob of protesters turned violent and set fire to a police station, leading to the death of twenty-two policemen. Gandhi, who was uncompromisingly committed to non-violence, felt that the movement was losing its moral foundation and that the Indian people were not yet fully prepared for disciplined mass satyagraha.

**207.** (A) Propagate socialist and communist ideas and organize the working class and peasantry.
A primary role of Leftist organizations during the freedom movement was to introduce radical socio-economic ideas into the nationalist discourse. They focused on organizing the industrial proletariat and the peasantry into trade unions and kisan sabhas to advocate for their specific class interests. Their goal was to ensure that the struggle for national liberation also included a commitment to ending economic exploitation and achieving a more egalitarian and socialist society.

**208.** (B) The Aga Khan
The All-India Muslim League was established in 1906, and its formation was preceded by a delegation of prominent Muslims meeting the Viceroy, Lord Minto. This delegation, known as the Simla Deputation, was led by the Aga Khan. They sought political safeguards and separate electorates for the Muslim community, marking the beginning of organized communal politics that would significantly influence the course of the Indian nationalist movement and constitutional developments.

**209.** (B) Jammu and Kashmir
The accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India was complicated by the fact that the Maharaja initially sought to remain independent. When the state was invaded by tribal raiders from Pakistan, he signed the Instrument of Accession in exchange for military help. The Indian government later promised that the final status of the state would be determined by a plebiscite once order was restored, a condition that led to a long-standing territorial dispute.

**210.** (A) To use state-led planning to direct economic resources towards development goals.
The Five Year Plans were based on the idea of a planned economy, where the government played a leading role in directing resources toward specific developmental objectives. This approach aimed to achieve balanced growth, modernize agriculture, and build a strong industrial base through state intervention. By setting five-year targets, the government sought to systematically reduce poverty, increase national income, and ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth in independent India.

**211.** (C) Introduction of a uniform system of law and administration.
While racial arrogance, economic exploitation, and political unification all provoked a strong nationalist reaction, the introduction of a uniform system of law and administration was generally seen as a modernizing influence. Although the administration was colonial, the concept of a single legal and administrative framework helped in creating a sense of common identity across different regions. This modernization paradoxically provided the intellectual and

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sequence represents the evolving leadership and ideological shifts within the broader Indian freedom struggle over several decades.

**164.** (D) The election of the President for the session, with Extremists wanting Lala Lajpat Rai and Moderates proposing Rashbehari Ghosh.
While ideological differences were deep, the immediate cause of the Surat Split was a disagreement over the presidency of the 1907 Congress session. The Extremists wanted a more assertive leader like Lala Lajpat Rai to represent their radical views, while the Moderates preferred a candidate like Rashbehari Ghosh who aligned with their constitutional approach. This direct confrontation over leadership led to the formal and temporary division of the nationalist organization.

**165.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Early revolutionary activities were indeed concentrated in regions like Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab, where nationalist sentiment was particularly strong. The revolutionaries utilized methods like targeted assassinations and robberies to fund their activities and challenge British authority. However, it is incorrect to say they had no impact, as their heroism inspired widespread patriotism and defiance, significantly influencing the broader nationalist movement and the youth of the country.

**166.** (B) The Indian National Army (INA)
Subhashchandra Bose gave the powerful slogan "Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom!" while leading the Indian National Army during World War II. He used this call to inspire Indian soldiers and civilians in Southeast Asia to join the armed struggle for national liberation. The slogan reflected his radical belief that independence could only be achieved through total commitment and the ultimate sacrifice of the Indian people.

**167.** (D) Class struggle.
A fundamental ideological difference between the Leftists and the Gandhian leadership was the concept of class struggle. While the Leftists believed that social and economic justice could only be achieved through a struggle between different classes, Gandhi advocated for class collaboration and social harmony. This difference in perspective influenced their respective approaches to issues like land reform, industrial relations, and the ultimate vision for an independent Indian society.

**168.** (A) Separate electorates not only for Muslims but also for depressed classes and other minorities.
The Communal Award of 1932 was a controversial decision by the British government that extended the system of separate electorates to several minority groups, including the depressed classes. Mahatma Gandhi strongly opposed this move, believing it would permanently divide Hindu society. His protest led to the Poona Pact, where an agreement was reached for reserved seats within a common electorate, reflecting the intense political debates over representation.

**169.** (C) The dispute over the accession of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir to India, leading to conflict with Pakistan.
The 'Kashmir problem' originated at the time of independence when the ruler of the state delayed a decision on accession. An invasion by tribal groups supported by Pakistan forced the Maharaja to sign the Instrument of Accession to India. This led to a series of military conflicts and a long-standing territorial dispute that has remained a central and complex issue in the relationship between India and Pakistan.

**170.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The rise of Indian nationalism was a complex process involving multiple ideological streams. The interests and methods of the Moderates, Extremists, revolutionaries, and leftists were often distinct and sometimes even conflicting. This diversity reflected the wide range of social, economic, and political viewpoints within the country, but all these different groups contributed in their own ways to the ultimate goal of achieving national independence.

NODIA

**171.** (D) Many Indian rulers and large regions remained neutral or supported the British.
A primary reason for the failure of the 1857 revolt was the lack of support from several key Indian rulers and regions. Powerful states like Hyderabad, Gwalior, and the Sikh principalities remained loyal to the British or chose to stay neutral. This lack of a unified front allowed the colonial administration to use its superior

justice remained a central part of the vision for an independent India.

**188.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The British policy of 'divide and rule' was instrumental in fostering communalism in India. By introducing separate electorates, the colonial administration institutionalized religious identity as the basis for political participation. This encouraged different communities to view their interests as separate and competing, rather than as part of a common national cause. This policy successfully prevented a unified front and eventually led to the demand for the partition of the subcontinent.

**189.** (C) Maintaining equidistance from both superpower blocs while actively participating in international issues.
Non-Alignment did not mean isolation or neutrality but an active and independent foreign policy. India sought to remain outside the military alliances of the Cold War to protect its sovereignty and pursue its own development goals. This approach allowed the country to judge each international issue on its merits and maintain friendly relations with all nations, aiming to promote global peace and cooperation among newly independent countries.

**190.** (D) Bipin Chandra Pal
Bipin Chandra Pal was one of the prominent leaders of the Extremist wing, alongside Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He advocated for more radical methods such as boycott and mass agitation to achieve self-rule. In contrast, Dadabhai Naoroji, Pherozeshah Mehta, and Surendranath Banerjea were leading figures of the Moderate phase, who relied on constitutional agitation and petitions to achieve administrative reforms within the British colonial system.

**191.** (A) The overwhelming support for the British East India Company among common people.
The British did not enjoy overwhelming support among the common people; in fact, there was widespread civilian participation in many areas. However, the revolt failed due to other critical factors, such as the lack of support from several Indian princes and the Sikh and Gurkha units. Additionally, the rebels lacked a modern, unified political program and superior military resources, which allowed the better-organized British forces to eventually regain control of the country.

**192.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Resistance to colonial rule took many forms, including tribal, regional, and socio-religious movements. The Bhil, Naga, and Kuka rebellions all represent different aspects of this struggle against the intrusion of colonial administration and the disruption of traditional ways of life. These movements highlight that the opposition to British rule was not limited to the urban elite but was widespread among various social and ethnic groups across the vast Indian subcontinent.

**193.** (B) Remission of land revenue due to crop failure.
The Kheda Satyagraha was launched because the peasants were facing a severe famine and total crop failure. Despite their legal right to revenue relief under the famine code, the colonial authorities insisted on collecting the full land revenue. Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel organized the peasants to withhold payment in a non-violent protest, demanding that the government fulfill its legal obligation to grant remission during such a period of distress.

**194.** (A) Extremists
The term 'Lal-Bal-Pal' refers to the powerful trio of Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal, who were the foremost leaders of the Extremist movement. They championed the ideas of Swadeshi, boycott, and national education, and were the first to demand Swaraj as a matter of right. Their assertive leadership shifted the nationalist struggle from constitutional petitions to a more radical and mass-based political action.

**195.** (C) Individual heroic action and armed struggle.
Early revolutionary organizations believed that the British could not be removed through peaceful protests or constitutional petitions. They aimed to instill fear in the colonial administration and inspire the masses through individual acts of bravery and armed resistance. Their ideology was based on the conviction that a small, dedicated group could spark a larger revolution through heroic deeds and a spirit of total self-sacrifice for the national cause of freedom.

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instrumental in preventing the fragmentation of the country and ensuring a unified and cohesive geographical and political entity.

**180.** (D) Rapid industrialization with a focus on heavy industries and the public sector.
The Second Five Year Plan represented a major shift in India's economic strategy toward rapid industrialization. Guided by the Mahalanobis model, it prioritized the development of heavy and basic industries, such as steel and chemicals, primarily within the public sector. This approach aimed to create a robust industrial foundation that would ensure long-term economic growth and reduce the country's dependence on foreign manufactured goods during its formative years.

**181.** (C) A new educated middle class and widespread economic hardships under colonial rule.
The foundation of modern Indian nationalism was laid by the newly emerged Western-educated middle class, who utilized modern ideas to challenge British rule. At the same time, the widespread economic distress caused by colonial policies across all sections of society provided the mass support for the movement. This combination of intellectual leadership and popular discontent created a powerful and broad-based national struggle for independence and economic justice.

**182.** (B) The Doctrine of Lapse policy pursued by Lord Dalhousie.
The Doctrine of Lapse was a major political cause of the 1857 revolt. This policy allowed the British to annex any princely state where the ruler died without a natural heir, refusing to recognize the right of adopted sons. The annexation of several states under this policy created deep resentment among Indian royalty and nobility, who saw it as an unjust and aggressive expansion of colonial administrative authority.

**183.** (D) Its goal was not to overthrow the zamindari system but to fight against illegal cesses and oppression within the legal framework.
The Pabna movement was unique because it was an organized legal struggle rather than a violent uprising. The peasants aimed to protect their existing legal rights against the illegal demands of the landlords. By forming agrarian leagues and using the courts, they successfully resisted unjust rent hikes and illegal cesses. Their approach demonstrated the possibility of achieving significant reforms through collective action within the existing administrative and judicial systems.

**184.** (A) Punjab Kesari (The Lion of Punjab)
Lala Lajpat Rai was a towering leader of the Extremist phase and was popularly known as 'Punjab Kesari' for his fierce patriotism and assertive leadership. He was a key figure in the Swadeshi and boycott movements and played a major role in the protest against the Simon Commission. His dedication to the cause of freedom and his powerful oratory made him one of the most respected national leaders of his time.

NODIA

**185.** (C) Surya Sen
Surya Sen, popularly known as 'Masterda', led the daring Chittagong Armoury Raid in 1930. His group of young revolutionaries successfully seized the city's armouries and established a short-lived provisional government. This raid was one of the most organized and successful revolutionary acts in the history of the freedom struggle, significantly challenging the prestige and military authority of the British administration in Bengal and beyond.

**186.** (A) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
The Poona Pact was an agreement reached in 1932 between Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It was a response to the Communal Award that had granted separate electorates for the depressed classes. Through this pact, Ambedkar agreed to have reserved seats within a common electorate, and Gandhi ended his fast unto death. This agreement was a crucial moment in addressing the political representation of marginalized sections of Indian society.

**187.** (D) Organizing peasants and workers into kisan sabhas and trade unions.
A primary role of Leftists in the freedom struggle was to bring the issues of the masses to the forefront by organizing them on class lines. They formed kisan sabhas for peasants and trade unions for industrial workers, advocating for radical land reforms and labor rights. Their activities helped in broad-basing the nationalist movement and ensured that social and economic

resources and more disciplined military to systematically suppress the various pockets of rebellion across the country.

**172.** (B) Chhotanagpur
The Kol tribe, which rose in a major rebellion in 1831-32, was primarily located in the Chhotanagpur plateau of present-day Jharkhand. Their uprising was a response to the exploitation by outsiders and the intrusion of the colonial administrative and judicial systems into their traditional lands. The Kol resistance was one of the earliest and most intense tribal challenges to British expansion and economic policies in the region.

**173.** (C) It proved organized non-violent mass protest could force government concessions.
The Bardoli Satyagraha was a landmark event because it demonstrated the effectiveness of disciplined non-violent resistance on a large scale. By successfully challenging an arbitrary tax hike, the movement showed that an organized peasantry could win significant concessions from the colonial government. This victory boosted the morale of the nationalist movement and established the potency of the Gandhian method of Satyagraha for future struggles.

**174.** (B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Bal Gangadhar Tilak famously declared that Swaraj was his birthright, while Mahatma Gandhi gave the "Do or Die" call during the Quit India movement. Aurobindo Ghosh was a prominent advocate of passive resistance, and the term 'Ghadar' was used by Indian revolutionaries in the USA. These slogans and terms represent the varied ideological contributions and diverse leadership styles that characterized different phases of the Indian freedom movement.

**175.** (A) A focus on constitutional agitation and petitioning.
Revolutionaries in India and abroad rejected the Moderate policy of constitutional agitation and petitions. Instead, they believed in the necessity of an armed struggle to achieve independence. Their activities focused on building secret networks, inspiring the youth through acts of bravery, and organizing coordinated uprisings. Their approach was rooted in a deep sense of patriotism and the conviction that only force could end the colonial British occupation.

**176.** (B) Swadeshi Movement
The Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905 as a reaction to the partition of Bengal, before Mahatma Gandhi's return and leadership in Indian politics. It was primarily led by Extremist leaders like Tilak and Pal. In contrast, the Champaran Satyagraha, Non-Cooperation Movement, and Civil Disobedience Movement were all key nationwide or localized struggles initiated and led by Gandhi himself, using his unique methods of non-violent resistance.

**177.** (B) The influence of global events like the Russian Revolution and the growing discontent among workers and peasants.
The rise of Leftist ideology was driven by both international and internal factors. The success of the Russian Revolution provided a powerful model for social and economic transformation. Locally, the increasing economic hardships faced by industrial workers and peasants under colonial rule created a fertile ground for socialist and communist ideas. These groups sought to offer a more radical alternative to the mainstream nationalist agenda by focusing on class issues.

**178.** (A) An ideology deliberately fostered by colonial policies and exploited by certain political groups to achieve political ends.
Communalism was a modern political phenomenon that was significantly encouraged by British administrative strategies like 'divide and rule' and separate electorates. It was not an ancient or inherent hatred but a tool used by various political groups to mobilize support and compete for power. This ideology eventually led to the perception that different religious communities were separate nations, providing the primary intellectual and political basis for the partition of India.

**179.** (C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, as the first Home Minister of independent India, played the most critical role in the integration of the princely states. His skillful combination of diplomacy, persuasion, and the threat of popular pressure convinced most rulers to join the Indian Union. His tireless efforts and strong leadership were

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**196.** (D) Discuss constitutional reforms for India, including the Simon Commission report.
The Round Table Conferences were a series of meetings held in London to discuss the future of the Indian constitution. These conferences brought together British politicians and representatives of various Indian groups to consider the recommendations of the Simon Commission and address the demands for self-government. Although they faced significant disagreements, these meetings were a key part of the process that eventually led to the Government of India Act of 1935.

**197.** (C) Leftists and Socialists
The All India Kisan Sabha was formed to represent the interests of the peasantry and was significantly influenced by Leftist and socialist leaders. These leaders believed that the struggle for national independence must include a commitment to radical land reforms and the economic emancipation of the peasants. The organization played a major role in mobilizing the rural masses and bringing agrarian issues to the forefront of the national political agenda.

**198.** (B) Called for the formation of "independent states" for Muslims in the north-western and eastern areas of India.
The Lahore Resolution of 1940 was a major milestone for the Muslim League as it formally articulated the demand for the creation of separate states for Muslims. This resolution marked a definitive move away from seeking safeguards within a united India toward the goal of a sovereign nation. It fundamentally changed the nature of the constitutional negotiations and became the primary political basis for the eventual partition of the subcontinent.

**199.** (D) 1951-52
The first general elections in independent India were a massive undertaking held between October 1951 and February 1952. These elections were the first to be based on universal adult suffrage, allowing millions of newly enfranchised citizens to participate in the democratic process. The successful conduct of these elections was a significant milestone in establishing India as the world's largest democracy and demonstrated the people's faith in the new republican constitution.

**200.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Sardar Patel was the chief architect of the integration of princely states, while the Constituent Assembly's Drafting Committee under B.R. Ambedkar framed the constitution. The States Reorganisation Commission handled the linguistic division of states, and the Planning Commission was responsible for formulating the Five Year Plans. These individuals and bodies were instrumental in building the administrative, political, and economic foundations of independent India during its crucial formative years.

**201.** (C) The nationalist interpretation, notably by V.D. Savarkar.
The nationalist interpretation of the 1857 revolt views it as a significant and coordinated attempt to achieve national independence. This perspective, most famously articulated by V.D. Savarkar in his writings, challenged the British view of it being a mere mutiny. Instead, it highlighted the broad participation across different social and religious groups and the common political goal of ending foreign rule, portraying it as a seminal event in the history of Indian resistance.

**202.** (A) Maharashtra
Vasudeva Balavant Fadake's rebellion was primarily concentrated in the regions of Maharashtra, particularly around Pune and the Western Ghats. He organized the local Ramoshis and other tribal groups into an armed force to challenge British colonial authority. His activities were focused on disrupting the administration and creating a revolutionary fervor in Western India, making his struggle an early and significant example of political resistance against British rule in the region.

**203.** (D) Pabna Movement - Salt Tax
The Pabna Movement was a legal struggle by peasants in Bengal against zamindari oppression and illegal rent increases, not a protest against the salt tax. The other pairings correctly identify the primary causes: the Champaran Satyagraha addressed the Tinkathia system, the Kheda Satyagraha focused on revenue remission during crop failure, and the Bardoli Satyagraha was a protest against the arbitrary enhancement of land revenue by the colonial government.

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1956, which fundamentally reshaped the internal boundaries of the country to better reflect linguistic and cultural identities, thereby helping to stabilize the federal structure of the newly independent republic.

**220.** (B) A pragmatic approach to foreign policy, maintaining ties without compromising sovereignty.
India's decision to remain in the Commonwealth of Nations as a republic was a significant and pragmatic move. It allowed the country to maintain useful diplomatic and economic ties with Britain and other member nations while fully asserting its own sovereignty and republican status. This arrangement demonstrated India's desire to participate in international organizations on its own terms and highlighted the flexible and independent nature of its early post-independence foreign policy under Jawaharlal Nehru.

**221.** (C) Weakening the moral foundation of British rule by exposing its exploitative character.
The economic critique put forward by early nationalists was powerful because it challenged the British claim that their rule was benevolent and beneficial for India. By providing data-driven arguments about the 'drain of wealth' and the ruin of Indian industries, they showed that the colonial administration was systematically impoverishing the country. This intellectual work was crucial in building a national consciousness and providing a strong moral and economic justification for the demand for self-rule.

**222.** (D) Bareilly
Bakht Khan was a veteran soldier from Bareilly who had served in the British East India Company's artillery. When the 1857 revolt broke out, he led a large group of rebel soldiers from Bareilly to Delhi and assumed effective command of the forces there. His military experience and leadership were vital for the defense of Delhi, and he played a central role in organizing the resistance against the British during the crucial months of the uprising.

**223.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Early peasant and tribal rebellions were primarily directed against immediate oppressors like moneylenders, landlords, and colonial officials who disrupted their traditional way of life. While these movements were localized and lacked a modern nationwide vision, they were not completely unsuccessful. They often forced the colonial administration to acknowledge grievances and implement some protective legislation, demonstrating that even localized resistance could have a significant impact on colonial policy and administrative practices.

**224.** (B) The Extremist faction of the Congress.
The Swadeshi movement was most vigorously championed by the Extremist leaders of the Congress, who saw it as a powerful tool for political mobilization. They advocated for the total boycott of British goods and institutions and the promotion of indigenous products as a means of achieving self-reliance and challenging colonial authority. Their assertive leadership transformed the protest against the partition of Bengal into a broader nationwide struggle for 'Swaraj' through mass participation and social action.

**225.** (B) Provided an alternative to slow and ineffective constitutional politics.
The revolutionary movement offered a radical alternative to the more cautious and gradualist approach of the Moderate leadership. By engaging in armed struggle and acts of bravery, revolutionaries demonstrated that there were other ways to challenge British rule besides petitions and speeches. Their dedication and willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for the motherland inspired many Indians and kept the spirit of militant resistance alive, adding a significant and potent dimension to the broader nationalist struggle.

**226.** (A) The Congress and the Muslim League signed the Lucknow Pact, agreeing on a common set of demands.
The Lucknow Session of 1916 was historic for several reasons, but its most significant outcome was the Lucknow Pact. This agreement between the Congress and the Muslim League represented a temporarily unified nationalist front against British rule. By agreeing on a common set of political demands, including separate electorates and representation in councils, the two major organizations demonstrated a shared commitment to achieving self-government,

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organizational tools that Indians later used to challenge British rule.

**212.** (A) 2, 1, 3, 4
The execution of Mangal Pandey in April 1857 was followed by the major revolt in Meerut in May. The sepoys then marched to Delhi and proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as the Emperor of Hindustan. The uprising in Jhansi occurred slightly later in June as the rebellion spread to other parts of Central India. This sequence illustrates how the revolt rapidly escalated from individual acts of defiance into a widespread and coordinated military and civilian uprising.

**213.** (C) The intrusion of outsiders (dikus) and the colonial administrative apparatus into their territories.
Tribal rebellions across India shared a common goal of resisting the disruption of their traditional ways of life. The intrusion of the British administrative and judicial systems, along with the influx of outsiders like moneylenders and landlords, threatened tribal autonomy and land ownership. These rebellions were desperate attempts by indigenous communities to protect their lands, forests, and cultural identities from the exploitative policies and practices introduced by the colonial government and its associates.

**214.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Extremist phase marked a significant shift in the nationalist movement by moving away from elite-dominated constitutional petitions toward more assertive mass action. Extremist leaders recognized that true strength lay in involving the broader population through methods like boycott, Swadeshi, and national education. This approach broadened the social base of the movement and challenged the foundations of colonial rule by demonstrating the power of organized popular resistance and a spirit of self-sacrifice.

**215.** (D) Betrayal and efficient counter-intelligence by the British.
The Ghadar Party's ambitious plan for a synchronized revolt in India in February 1915 failed primarily due to internal betrayal and efficient British counter-intelligence. The authorities were able to infiltrate the group and learn about the planned uprising beforehand. This allowed them to arrest key leaders and take preventive measures, effectively crushing the rebellion before it could start and demonstrating the strength of the British administrative and intelligence apparatus during World War I.

**216.** (A) Wardha
The Congress Working Committee passed the historic "Quit India" resolution at Wardha in July 1942. This resolution demanded an immediate end to British rule in India and authorized the launch of a non-violent mass movement if the demand was not met. The movement was later formally launched in Bombay in August, but the foundational decision and the call for the British to withdraw were made during the crucial meeting in Wardha.

**217.** (C) Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union.
The Communist Party of India shifted its stance on World War II from an 'imperialist war' to a 'people's war' after Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. Since the Soviet Union was now allied with Britain, the CPI argued that the nature of the war had changed. This shift led the party to support the British war effort and oppose the Quit India Movement, causing a significant divide with the mainstream nationalist struggle.

**218.** (A) It was an ideology that claimed that people sharing a common religion also shared common political, economic, and social interests.
Communalism is based on the idea that religious identity is the most important factor in determining a person's interests. This ideology suggests that the political and economic interests of different religious groups are fundamentally distinct and often in conflict. By promoting this view, communal politics successfully mobilized support along religious lines, but it also deepened divisions and eventually became the primary justification for the partition of India into two separate sovereign nations.

**219.** (D) Fazl Ali
The States Reorganisation Commission, appointed in 1953, was headed by Justice Fazl Ali. The commission was tasked with examining the long-standing demand for reorganizing Indian states on a linguistic basis. Its comprehensive report led to the States Reorganisation Act of

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was not sufficiently committed to radical land reforms or the total economic emancipation of the working class. This ideological tension often led to strained relations, even as both groups worked toward the common goal of national independence.

**156.** (B) The June 3rd Plan
The Mountbatten Plan, announced on June 3rd, 1947, provided the final framework for the partition of India and the transfer of power. It established the procedure for the division of provinces like Punjab and Bengal and defined the choice for the princely states. This plan was accepted by both the Congress and the Muslim League, leading to the rapid and often violent process of independence.

**157.** (C) The ideals and aspirations forged during the long freedom struggle.
While the Indian Constitution borrowed structural features from many countries, its fundamental spirit was a product of the long and arduous freedom struggle. The ideals of democracy, secularism, social justice, and fundamental rights were central to the nationalist movement's vision for a free India. These values were enshrined in the constitution to ensure that the new republic remained committed to the aspirations of its diverse people.

**158.** (D) Language
The Reorganisation of States Act of 1956 was primarily based on the principle of language. It aimed to align state boundaries with major linguistic regions to promote administrative efficiency and cultural identity. This reorganization was a response to long-standing popular demands and helped in stabilizing the federal structure of India by ensuring that people sharing a common language and culture were grouped into cohesive administrative units.

**159.** (A) The Non-Aligned Movement.
The Bandung Conference of 1955 was a landmark event where representatives from twenty-nine Asian and African nations gathered to discuss common challenges. It laid the foundation for the Non-Aligned Movement by articulating principles of mutual cooperation and resistance to all forms of colonialism. The conference highlighted the emergence of a new global voice for newly independent nations that sought to remain outside the superpower military blocs.

**160.** (B) The policy of recruiting soldiers from 'martial races' like Sikhs, Gurkhas, and Pathans was adopted.
After the 1857 revolt, the British completely reorganized the Indian army to prevent future uprisings. They significantly increased the proportion of British soldiers and adopted a policy of recruiting mainly from so-called 'martial races' who had remained loyal during the rebellion. This strategy was designed to ensure the military's loyalty and to prevent any single group from becoming dominant enough to challenge colonial authority.

**161.** (B) An armed struggle with the stated objective of overthrowing British rule to establish a 'Ganrajya'.
Vasudeva Balavant Fadake's rebellion was significant because it went beyond local grievances to propose a clear political alternative. He aimed to establish an independent Indian republic, or 'Ganrajya', through an organized armed struggle. His effort to unify diverse groups for a revolutionary cause was an early and influential example of the growing desire for complete political independence from British colonial administrative rule.

NODIA

**162.** (A) It was primarily a movement of industrial workers.
The Champaran Satyagraha was an agrarian movement, not an industrial one. It involved indigo cultivators who were struggling against the exploitative Tinkathia system imposed by European planters. This movement is historic because it was Mahatma Gandhi's first major intervention in India, where he successfully used the method of Satyagraha to force the government to address the long-standing grievances of the suffering and impoverished peasantry.

**163.** (A) 1, 2, 3, 4
Dadabhai Naoroji was a leading figure of the Moderate phase in the late nineteenth century. Bal Gangadhar Tilak emerged as a prominent Extremist leader in the early twentieth century. Bhagat Singh was a revolutionary during the late 1920s, and Jawaharlal Nehru served as the first Prime Minister after independence. This

which significantly increased the pressure on the colonial administration.

**227.** (C) Jayaprakash Narayan
Jayaprakash Narayan was a prominent socialist leader who played a heroic role in the Quit India Movement of 1942. He helped organize underground activities and became a symbol of revolutionary resistance. In the post-independence era, he remained a major figure in Indian politics, advocating for socialist ideals and later leading a significant mass movement for democratic reforms. His career reflects the important role of socialist ideology and leadership in both the freedom struggle and the new republic.

**228.** (D) The All-India Muslim League under M.A. Jinnah
The 'two-nation theory' was most forcefully and consistently articulated by the Muslim League under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This ideology argued that Hindus and Muslims were not just religious groups but two distinct nations with their own separate cultures, histories, and political interests. This theory became the primary intellectual and political foundation for the League's demand for a separate sovereign state of Pakistan, fundamentally shaping the course of the independence negotiations and leading to partition.

**229.** (C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Jawaharlal Nehru was the primary architect of India's foreign policy, while Sardar Patel spearheaded the integration of the princely states. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar served as the chairman of the Drafting Committee for the constitution, and Fazl Ali headed the States Reorganisation Commission. These individuals played critical roles in defining the international, political, and administrative foundations of independent India, ensuring its stability and unity during the crucial initial years after the transfer of power.

**230.** (B) The adopted son of a deceased ruler without a natural heir could not inherit the kingdom.
The Doctrine of Lapse was an aggressive annexation policy introduced by Lord Dalhousie. It stated that if an Indian ruler died without a natural heir, the British would not recognize any adopted son and would instead annex the state. This policy was applied to several important principalities, creating deep resentment and insecurity among Indian royalty. It was a major political cause of the 1857 revolt as it threatened the traditional systems of succession and local sovereignty.

**231.** (D) Cultivators against the coercive system of indigo plantation by European planters.
The Neel Rebellion of 1859-60 in Bengal was a powerful uprising by peasants against the highly exploitative and coercive system of indigo cultivation. European planters forced the cultivators to grow indigo under conditions that led to severe debt and poverty. The peasants collectively refused to grow the crop and resisted the planters' attempts at repression. Their struggle successfully drew national attention and eventually led to the government appointing a commission to investigate and reform the system.

**232.** (A) Their leadership was largely composed of educated, urban professionals.
The statement in the question is actually correct about the Moderates, but the intended 'incorrect' aspect often refers to their limited social base. The Moderates were indeed primarily educated urban professionals and their methods were constitutional. However, they were not successful in mobilizing the large masses of peasants and workers; this mass mobilization was only achieved later during the Extremist phase and more significantly under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi during the nationwide struggles for freedom.

**233.** (C) Socialism
The reorganisation of the Hindustan Republican Association into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association reflected the growing influence of socialist ideas on young revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh. They believed that the struggle for national independence should also be a struggle for social and economic equality. This change in name signaled their commitment to building an independent India that was free from all forms of exploitation, including both foreign colonial rule and internal class oppression.

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government and the various princely states. This agreement was intended to ensure stability and the continuity of essential services during the complex transition period before the final decisions on accession were made. It provided a breathing space for negotiations while preventing any immediate disruption in the functioning of the states.

**250.** (A) Not joining any military bloc and maintaining an independent foreign policy.
India's foreign policy of Non-Alignment, architected by Jawaharlal Nehru, was a deliberate choice to remain independent from the superpower military blocs during the Cold War. It aimed to preserve national sovereignty and allow India to focus on its own economic and social development. By not joining any military alliance, India sought to promote global peace and maintain the freedom to judge each international issue on its own merits for the national interest.

**251.** (D) Help in the circulation of nationalist ideas and exposed the flaws of colonial rule.
The role of the press was vital in the rise of Indian nationalism as it provided a platform for criticizing British policies and disseminating nationalist ideologies. Both English and vernacular newspapers played a key role in educating the public about the economic and political exploitation under colonial rule. By circulating ideas of liberty and self-rule, the press helped in creating a shared national consciousness and mobilizing people from diverse backgrounds for the freedom struggle.

**252.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The 1857 revolt had profound consequences for the administration of India. It led to the end of the East India Company's rule and the direct assumption of power by the British Crown. The Government of India Act of 1858 formalized this transfer, and the Governor-General was given the additional title of Viceroy. These changes were intended to provide a more stable and direct form of colonial administration and to prevent any future widespread uprisings against British authority.

**253.** (C) Maharashtra and Rajasthan
The Bhil tribe, inhabiting the hilly and forest regions of Maharashtra and Rajasthan, rose in multiple rebellions against the British and local feudal lords. These uprisings were driven by the intrusion of colonial administration, high land revenue demands, and the disruption of their traditional ways of life. The persistent resistance of the Bhils over several decades highlights the widespread nature of tribal discontent and the struggle for autonomy across different parts of the vast Indian subcontinent.

**254.** (D) Established Gandhi as a leader with a potent new method of mass mobilization.
The Champaran, Kheda, and Ahmedabad struggles were significant because they were the first instances where Mahatma Gandhi successfully applied his method of non-violent Satyagraha in India. These localized movements addressed the specific grievances of peasants and workers and achieved tangible results. Their success established Gandhi as a major national leader and proved that organized non-violent resistance could be a powerful tool for mass mobilization and for forcing concessions from the colonial administrative authorities.

**255.** (A) Moderates and Extremists
The split at the Surat Session in 1907 was a division between the Moderate and Extremist factions within the Indian National Congress. This ideological and tactical divide was caused by deep disagreements over the methods and goals of the freedom struggle. While the Moderates preferred constitutional methods, the Extremists advocated for more radical actions like boycott and mass agitation. This split weakened the organized nationalist movement for several years until the two groups were eventually reunited.

NODIA

**256.** (B) Indian revolutionary activities in Britain.
"India House" in London, founded by Shyamji Krishnavarma, was a pivotal center for Indian nationalist and revolutionary activities abroad. It provided a meeting place and residence for Indian students and activists who were committed to the cause of independence. Famous revolutionaries like V.D. Savarkar were associated with it. The center played a significant role in internationalizing the Indian struggle and organizing radical activities against British colonial rule from within the heart of the empire.

her to take up arms to protect her territory and her people's rights, making her one of the most heroic and legendary figures of the 1857 revolt.

**242.** (A) The Rajmahal Hills
The Santhal rebellion of 1855-56 was a major tribal uprising centered in the Rajmahal Hills and the surrounding areas of present-day Jharkhand and West Bengal. The Santhals rose against the exploitation by moneylenders, zamindars, and the colonial administration that supported them. This rebellion was a powerful assertion of tribal rights over their ancestral lands and remains one of the most significant early challenges to the expansion of British rule and its exploitative economic policies.

**243.** (C) Champaran Satyagraha
The Champaran Satyagraha in 1917 was the first major experiment with Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi after his return to India. By taking up the cause of the indigo cultivators against the oppressive Tinkathia system, he demonstrated the efficacy of non-violent mass resistance. This successful movement established his leadership and his unique method of political struggle, which would later become the cornerstone of the entire Indian national movement for independence from British colonial rule.

**244.** (D) The methods to be used in the freedom struggle and the goals of the movement.
The primary disagreement at the Surat Session in 1907 was between the Moderates and Extremists over the tactics and objectives of the nationalist movement. While the Moderates advocated for constitutional agitation and limited reforms, the Extremists demanded Swaraj and the expansion of the boycott and Swadeshi movements nationwide. This ideological and tactical divide eventually led to the formal split of the Congress, significantly impacting the organized struggle for independence during that period.

**245.** (C) Bhagat Singh
Bhagat Singh was a legendary revolutionary who made the ultimate sacrifice for India's freedom. He believed in the necessity of a radical and militant struggle against British rule to achieve a socialist and independent India. His daring acts, such as the protest in the Central Legislative Assembly, and his subsequent martyrdom at a young age, inspired millions and made him one of the most iconic and revered heroes of the national freedom movement.

**246.** (B) It did not offer complete independence but only Dominion Status after the war.
The Cripps Mission of 1942 was rejected by the Indian leadership because it failed to offer immediate and complete independence. Instead, it proposed Dominion Status with the right to secede after the end of World War II. Mahatma Gandhi famously termed it a "post-dated cheque on a crashing bank." The mission's failure led to the launch of the Quit India Movement, reflecting the national desire for an immediate and unconditional end to British rule.

**247.** (D) Acharya Narendra Dev
Acharya Narendra Dev was one of the prominent founders and intellectual leaders of the Congress Socialist Party (CSP). Formed in 1934 within the Indian National Congress, the CSP aimed to promote socialist ideals and mobilize workers and peasants for the nationalist cause. Narendra Dev's leadership was instrumental in bringing a radical socio-economic perspective to the freedom struggle, emphasizing the need for land reforms and the abolition of feudalism in an independent India.

**248.** (A) Only people from a particular religion could vote for candidates of that same religion.
The system of separate electorates, introduced by the British, meant that seats in legislative councils were reserved for specific religious communities, and only members of those communities could vote for them. This policy institutionalized religious identity as a basis for political representation and competition. It is widely viewed as a crucial part of the British 'divide and rule' strategy that deepened communal divisions and eventually contributed to the demand for partition.

**249.** (C) Maintain existing administrative and economic arrangements between the new Indian government and the princely states.
The 'standstill agreement' was a temporary legal mechanism used in 1947 to maintain the status quo in administrative and economic relations between the newly formed Indian

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**294.** (B) The method of 'prayer, petition, and protest'.
The method of 'prayer, petition, and protest' was characteristic of the Moderate phase of nationalism, which the Extremists strongly rejected. Instead, Extremist leaders like Tilak and Pal advocated for more assertive tactics such as the boycott of British goods and the promotion of Swadeshi and national education. They believed that rights must be taken through mass pressure and a spirit of self-sacrifice rather than being begged for through constitutional memorials and petitions to the colonial authorities.

**295.** (D) Kept the spirit of resistance alive and inspired numerous youths.
The revolutionary movement played a vital role in the freedom struggle by providing a militant alternative to constitutional politics. Although they did not achieve a mass revolution, the daring acts and self-sacrifice of revolutionaries kept the spirit of resistance against colonial rule vibrant. Their heroism inspired countless young Indians to join the struggle for freedom and ensured that the demand for complete independence remained a powerful and uncompromising part of the national consciousness during the long struggle.

**296.** (A) Banaras Hindu University
Mahatma Gandhi's first major public speech after returning to India was delivered at the opening of the Banaras Hindu University in 1916. In this historic address, he criticized the Indian elite for their lack of concern for the suffering of the poor and emphasized that true freedom could only be achieved through the service of the masses. This speech was a significant moment as it signaled his unique and inclusive approach to the nationalist movement for independence.

**297.** (C) 1 and 3 only
Leftist politics significantly introduced radical socio-economic ideas into the nationalist movement and frequently had ideological conflicts with the mainstream Congress leadership. However, it is incorrect to say that they ignored the peasantry; in fact, Leftists were among the most active in organizing kisan sabhas to address rural grievances. Their efforts aimed to build a broad-based movement that combined the struggle for political freedom with the economic emancipation of both the industrial proletariat and the rural masses.

NODIA

**298.** (A) Partition of British India into India and Pakistan
The most significant and tragic outcome of communal politics in the 1940s was the final partition of the subcontinent. The hardening of religious identities and the failure to agree on a power-sharing arrangement led to the perception that Hindus and Muslims were separate nations. This ideology, exploited for political gains, eventually made the creation of two separate sovereign states inevitable, resulting in the massive displacement and violence that accompanied the end of British colonial rule in 1947.

**299.** (D) The rulers of princely states agreed to join either the Dominion of India or Pakistan.
The Instrument of Accession was the foundational legal document through which the rulers of the various princely states formally agreed to join either the newly independent Dominion of India or Pakistan. By signing this instrument, the princes surrendered their powers over defense, external affairs, and communications to the central government. This mechanism was crucial for achieving the political and geographical integration of the diverse principalities and preventing the fragmentation of the subcontinent after the transfer of power.

**300.** (B) Jawaharlal Nehru
The military conflict with China in 1962 resulted in a significant defeat that severely damaged the prestige of the national leadership. It forced an immediate re-evaluation of defense preparedness and strained the idealistic pursuit of peaceful coexistence. This event is often cited as a major blow to the diplomatic efforts and the personal standing of the first Prime Minister, who had been a key architect of the policy of non-alignment and international cooperation.

**257.** (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
Subhashchandra Bose led the revival of the Indian National Army, while Sardar Patel was the hero of the Bardoli Satyagraha. Mahatma Gandhi first experimented with Satyagraha in Champaran, and Lala Hardayal was a key founder of the Ghadar Party. These associations reflect the diverse range of movements and the iconic leaders who collectively shaped the course of the Indian freedom struggle through various revolutionary, peasant-based, and mass nationalist activities during the colonial era.

**258.** (A) The global impact of the Russian Revolution and rising class consciousness among various groups.
The rise of Leftist ideology in India was significantly influenced by the success of the Russian Revolution, which demonstrated the possibility of a successful workers' and peasants' uprising. This event inspired many Indian nationalists to adopt socialist and communist ideas to address local economic inequalities and colonial exploitation. The growing class consciousness among industrial workers and peasants provided a social base for these ideologies, leading to the formation of radical labor and agrarian organizations.

**259.** (C) Promote loyalty to the British government and protect the political rights of Muslims.
When the All-India Muslim League was founded in 1906, its primary objectives were to represent the interests of the Muslim community and promote loyalty toward the British government. It sought political safeguards, such as separate electorates, to ensure that Muslims were not disadvantaged in the evolving constitutional framework. At its inception, the League did not demand a separate state but focused on protecting the specific political and economic rights of Muslims within British India.

**260.** (D) Jawaharlal Nehru
Jawaharlal Nehru delivered the famous "tryst with destiny" speech on the midnight of August 15, 1947, as India gained independence. This historic address reflected on the long struggle for freedom and the responsibilities of the new nation. Nehru spoke of the opportunity to build a prosperous and egalitarian society and called on the people to work together to realize the dreams of a free India. The speech remains a powerful symbol of the birth of the modern Indian republic.

**261.** (C) The Harrod-Domar model
The First Five Year Plan in India was based on the Harrod-Domar model of economic growth. This model emphasized the role of savings and investment in driving development. The plan focused on prioritizing the agricultural sector and building a foundation for sustainable growth by investing in irrigation and infrastructure. This approach was intended to address the immediate challenges of food shortages and poverty that the country faced shortly after achieving independence from British colonial rule.

**262.** (B) Being punished for refusing to use the new greased cartridges.
The 1857 revolt in Meerut was triggered when eighty-five sepoys were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for refusing to use the new Enfield rifle cartridges. Their comrades subsequently rose in rebellion to free them and attacked their British officers. This event served as the sparks that ignited a widespread military and civilian uprising across Northern and Central India, marking a major challenge to the foundations of British colonial authority in the subcontinent.

**263.** (D) Use of legal methods, such as non-payment of illegal rent and legal challenges, to fight zamindari oppression.
The Pabna Agrarian Leagues were notable for their organized and legalistic approach to resisting the exploitation by landlords. The peasants collectively refused to pay rents that exceeded the legal limits and used the courts to protect their occupancy rights. Their struggle was characterized by a high degree of discipline and a commitment to working within the existing judicial system, demonstrating the potential for achieving significant reforms through collective legal and non-violent action by the peasantry.

**264.** (A) A doctrine of spiritual nationalism and passive resistance.
Before his move to spiritualism, Aurobindo Ghosh was a prominent Extremist leader who advocated for spiritual nationalism and the doctrine of passive resistance. He believed that the nation was a living entity and that the struggle

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**234.** (A) The unjust treatment of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) by the Allied powers after World War I.
The Khilafat Movement was a major socio-political movement launched by Indian Muslims to protest against the dismantling of the Ottoman Caliphate by the victorious Allied powers. The Caliph was considered the spiritual leader of the global Muslim community, and his humiliation was seen as an affront to Islam. Mahatma Gandhi supported the movement, seeing it as an opportunity to unite Hindus and Muslims in a common struggle against British colonial rule during the Non-Cooperation era.

**235.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Subhashchandra Bose believed that taking advantage of Britain's involvement in World War II was essential for achieving India's freedom. He sought the support of Axis powers like Germany and Japan, who were Britain's enemies, to launch an armed struggle against colonial rule. His daring escape from India and his subsequent efforts to organize the Indian National Army abroad were based on this radical strategy of using external military assistance to liberate the motherland from the British.

**236.** (B) Communists and Trade Unionists
The Meerut Conspiracy Case was a significant trial initiated by the British government to curb the growing influence of communism and labor movements in India. Many prominent communist and trade union leaders were arrested and charged with conspiring to overthrow British rule. The case was part of a broader administrative effort to suppress radical socio-economic ideas and activities that were increasingly challenging the authority of the colonial state and its industrial and economic policies during the 1920s.

**237.** (C) Calcutta
The "Direct Action Day" called by the Muslim League in August 1946 led to horrific and widespread communal violence, particularly in the city of Calcutta. Known as the 'Great Calcutta Killings', the riots resulted in thousands of deaths and massive destruction of property. This tragic event significantly deepened the communal divide and made the prospect of a united independent India seem increasingly remote, effectively paving the way for the eventual partition of the country.

**238.** (D) A 'police action'
The integration of Hyderabad into the Indian Union was achieved through a military operation known as 'Operation Polo', which was termed a 'police action' by the Indian government. The Nizam of Hyderabad had refused to accede and was attempting to remain independent while internal unrest grew. The intervention in September 1948 successfully brought the large and strategically located state into the Indian fold, ensuring the territorial integrity and security of the newly independent nation.

**239.** (A) Linguistic identity
The reorganization of states in South India during the 1950s was primarily driven by the demand for states based on linguistic identity. Large mass movements and the sacrifice of leaders like Potti Sriramulu forced the government to acknowledge that language was a powerful basis for administrative and cultural cohesion. This led to the creation of states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, which helped in stabilizing the federal structure by aligning political boundaries with linguistic communities.

**240.** (B) The British policy of promoting regionalism to weaken nationalist sentiment.
While the British sometimes used regional or communal differences to maintain control, the overall impact of their rule was the creation of a modern, pan-India nationalism. The introduction of unified transport, communication, and administrative systems facilitated the exchange of ideas and the growth of a common nationalist identity. The emergence of an English-educated elite and a vibrant vernacular press were key factors that helped in disseminating nationalist ideologies and uniting people across diverse regions.

**241.** (B) Refused to recognize the right of her adopted son to the throne under the Doctrine of Lapse.
Rani Laxmibai's resistance against the British was triggered by the application of the Doctrine of Lapse to her state of Jhansi. When her husband died without a natural heir, the British refused to recognize the succession of her adopted son and annexed the state. This blatant injustice forced

NODIA

of common grievance and served to unite people across different regions and classes in a collective struggle for dignity and self-rule against colonial authority.

**272.** (B) Tatya Tope
Tatya Tope was a brilliant military commander and a master of guerrilla warfare during the 1857 revolt. As a close associate of Nana Saheb, he played a crucial role in the rebellion in Kanpur and later in Central India. His ability to evade British capture for a long time and his strategic cooperation with Rani Laxmibai made him one of the most celebrated and formidable heroes of the uprising, symbolizing the spirit of militant resistance against colonial rule.

**273.** (B) Neel (Indigo) Rebellion
The play 'Neel Darpan' by Dinabandhu Mitra is a famous literary work that vividly depicted the extreme exploitation and brutality faced by indigo cultivators in Bengal. It highlighted the coercive methods used by European planters and the indifference of the colonial administration. The play was instrumental in creating public awareness and building sympathy for the peasants' cause, significantly contributing to the eventual reform of the exploitative indigo plantation system during the mid-nineteenth century.

**274.** (A) The boycott of foreign goods and the promotion of Swadeshi.
Extremist leaders like Tilak and Pal popularized more assertive and mass-based forms of political action to challenge British rule. They advocated for the total boycott of British products and the promotion of indigenous, or Swadeshi, industries to achieve economic self-reliance. These methods were intended to mobilize the broader population and put direct pressure on the colonial administration, shifting the nationalist struggle from constitutional petitions to a more radical and participatory form of social and political resistance.

**275.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Revolutionaries aimed to instill pride and defiance among Indians through their heroic acts and self-sacrifice. Their actions were often a direct response to repressive colonial policies, such as the partition of Bengal. While they operated outside the mainstream Congress, it is incorrect to say they had no influence, as their bravery inspired many and added a potent militant dimension to the broader nationalist movement, frequently pushing more moderate leaders toward more assertive positions against British rule.

**276.** (D) The Rowlatt Act
The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred in April 1919 when people gathered in Amritsar to protest against the repressive Rowlatt Act and the arrest of nationalist leaders. This act allowed the government to detain political suspects without trial. The brutal killing of hundreds of unarmed protesters by British troops under General Dyer's orders became a major turning point in the freedom struggle, leading to nationwide outrage and fueling the demand for complete independence from colonial rule.

**277.** (C) The Communist Party of India
The Communist Party of India is a major leftist organization that has played a significant role in the Indian political landscape since the 1920s. Based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, it has consistently focused on organizing the working class and the peasantry to advocate for social and economic equality. The party's activities in trade unions and kisan sabhas have been instrumental in bringing radical socio-economic issues into the broader discourse of the national freedom movement.

NODIA

**278.** (B) Indian Nationalists, British Imperialists, and Communalists
The "communal triangle" refers to the complex interplay between the nationalist movement seeking independence, the British colonial administration pursuing its own interests, and various communal groups that sought political gains based on religious identity. This dynamic was often exploited by the British to weaken the nationalist front through policies like 'divide and rule'. The interaction between these three forces significantly shaped the constitutional negotiations and the eventual outcome of the freedom struggle in the subcontinent.

**279.** (D) Independence.
At the time of partition, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh, initially hoped to keep

his state independent of both India and Pakistan. This delay in making a decision on accession created a political vacuum that was eventually exploited by tribal raiders from Pakistan. The subsequent invasion forced the Maharaja to seek military assistance from India and sign the Instrument of Accession, leading to a long-standing territorial dispute and multiple military conflicts between the two nations.

**280.** (A) The development of a heavy industry-based public sector.
The Mahalanobis model, which provided the framework for India's Second Five Year Plan, emphasized rapid industrialization with a focus on heavy and basic industries. It argued that building a strong industrial base through state investment in the public sector was essential for achieving long-term economic self-reliance and growth. This strategy aimed to modernize the economy and reduce poverty by creating jobs and producing capital goods within the country, reflecting the socialist goals of the early leadership.

**281.** (C) W.C. Bonnerjee
The first session of the Indian National Congress was held in Bombay in December 1885 and was presided over by Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee. He was a prominent lawyer who represented the newly emerged Western-educated elite. His presidency marked the beginning of an organized political platform for Indians to discuss their grievances and demand administrative reforms from the British colonial government, laying the foundation for the long and diverse struggle for national independence that followed.

**282.** (A) The Ulgulan (The Great Tumult)
The Munda Rebellion, led by Birsa Munda in the late nineteenth century, is famously known as the 'Ulgulan' or 'The Great Tumult'. This movement was a powerful and organized tribal uprising against the exploitation by outsiders and the destruction of traditional land rights in the Chhotanagpur region. Birsa Munda's leadership and his vision of an independent Munda Raj made the Ulgulan a significant chapter in the history of tribal resistance against colonial expansion and economic oppression in India.

**283.** (D) Lahore Session, 1929
The Lahore Session of the Congress in 1929 was a major turning point as it officially adopted the goal of 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence. Under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Congress declared that it would no longer settle for anything less than a total end to British rule. This session also decided to boycott the upcoming Round Table Conference and authorized the launch of the Civil Disobedience Movement, marking the beginning of a more radical phase of the struggle.

**284.** (B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
Bhagat Singh was a key figure in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, while Surya Sen led the Chittagong Armoury Raid. Ram Prasad Bismil was famously associated with the Kakori Conspiracy, and V.D. Savarkar founded the Abhinav Bharat society. These associations identify the iconic leaders and the bold acts of resistance that characterized the revolutionary movement, which sought to challenge British colonial authority through armed struggle and individual bravery during different periods of the freedom struggle.

**285.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Mahatma Gandhi launched the Dandi March in 1930 as a powerful and symbolic protest against the British salt law. This law gave the colonial government a monopoly on the production and sale of salt, making it an expensive necessity for every Indian. By walking to the coast and making salt from seawater, Gandhi demonstrated a simple but profound act of non-violent civil disobedience that successfully mobilized millions of people across the country for the nationalist cause.

**286.** (D) The CSP was formed as a group within the Congress to push it towards socialism, while the CPI was an independent party affiliated with the Comintern.
The Congress Socialist Party was established as a faction within the Indian National Congress to promote a socialist agenda while working for national independence. In contrast, the Communist Party of India was an independent organization that looked toward the international communist movement for ideological guidance. While both groups sought social and economic

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justice, their relationship with the Congress and their respective organizational structures were distinct, reflecting the diverse ideological streams within the broader struggle for a free and egalitarian India.

**287.** (A) The Mountbatten Plan (June 3rd Plan)
The Mountbatten Plan, announced in June 1947, provided the final blueprint for the partition of India and the transfer of power. It established the procedures for the division of provinces and defined the choice for the princely states to join either India or Pakistan. This plan was accepted by the major political parties as the only way to resolve the deepening communal divide, leading to the rapid and often tragic process of achieving independence and creating two separate sovereign nations.

**288.** (B) 14 states and 6 union territories.
The States Reorganisation Act of 1956, based on the recommendations of the Fazl Ali Commission, resulted in the creation of fourteen states and six union territories. This reorganization was a systematic effort to align internal administrative boundaries with major linguistic regions. By creating states based on language, the government aimed to promote administrative efficiency, cultural identity, and social cohesion, which helped in stabilizing the federal structure of the newly independent and diverse Indian republic.

**289.** (B) Creation of a joint military command
The 'Panchsheel' principles were designed to promote peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between nations. They emphasized non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, and mutual respect for sovereignty. The creation of a joint military command would have been contrary to the spirit of these principles and the broader policy of Non-Alignment, which sought to maintain national independence by avoiding military alliances with superpowers and their respective blocs during the global Cold War era.

**290.** (A) Promoting indigenous (Swadeshi) industries and boycotting foreign goods.
"Economic nationalism" during the freedom struggle was the idea that India's economic prosperity could only be achieved through self-reliance and the protection of local industries. This led to the promotion of Swadeshi, where people were encouraged to use Indian-made products, and the boycott of British goods. This strategy aimed to challenge the economic foundations of colonial rule and revitalize the traditional and modern sectors of the Indian economy as a part of the broader national movement.

**291.** (C) The success of the Indian National Congress in uniting the masses.
The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885, so its activities could not have been an underlying cause of the 1857 revolt. The uprising was instead driven by long-standing grievances related to political annexations, economic exploitation, and perceived social and religious interference. These deep-seated issues created widespread discontent among sepoys, royalty, and civilians alike, eventually exploding into a major challenge to British authority several decades before the organized nationalist movement under the Congress began.

**292.** (D) Boycott of British education, laws, and products.
The Kuka Rebellion in Punjab, under the leadership of Baba Ram Singh, adopted a policy of non-cooperation against British rule. Its followers were urged to boycott British-run schools, courts, and all foreign-made products. This emphasis on self-reliance and the rejection of colonial institutions was an early and significant instance of mass political resistance that combined socio-religious reform with the goal of restoring Sikh sovereignty and challenging the foundations of the colonial administrative system in the region.

**293.** (C) Kheda Satyagraha
Mahatma Gandhi launched the Kheda Satyagraha in 1918 to support peasants who were suffering from a severe famine. Despite a total crop failure, the colonial authorities refused to grant revenue remission as required by the law. Gandhi organized the peasants to withhold payment in a non-violent protest, demonstrating that even localized economic issues could be addressed through disciplined collective action, thereby establishing his leadership and the efficacy of Satyagraha among the rural masses.

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for freedom was a spiritual duty. His writings encouraged Indians to boycott British goods and institutions, emphasizing that independence could only be achieved through self-sacrifice and inner moral strength, providing a radical alternative to constitutional politics.

**265.** (C) A ship carrying Indian immigrants being turned away from Canada, which inflamed nationalist and revolutionary sentiments.
The "Komagata Maru" incident involved a ship carrying mainly Sikh and Muslim immigrants that was refused entry into Canada in 1914. The ship was forced to return to India, where a violent clash with the police occurred at Budge Budge harbor. This event was seen as a blatant example of colonial discrimination and significantly inflamed nationalist and revolutionary sentiments, particularly among the Indian diaspora and within the Ghadar Party's international network.

**266.** (A) Mahatma Gandhi
The concept of 'Gram Swaraj', or village self-rule, was a central element of Mahatma Gandhi's political and social philosophy. He believed that true independence for India would be achieved only when its villages became self-sufficient and autonomous units. Gandhi advocated for a decentralized political and economic system based on local participation and the promotion of traditional industries like spinning and weaving, reflecting his vision of a more egalitarian and community-based society for free India.

**267.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Leftists, including communists and socialists, were instrumental in mobilizing the working class and the peasantry during the freedom struggle. They believed that national liberation must include a commitment to ending socio-economic exploitation. By organizing trade unions and kisan sabhas, they brought the issues of labor and land reforms into the mainstream of the nationalist movement, thereby broadening its social base and ensuring that the interests of the common masses were represented in the struggle for freedom.

**268.** (B) The failure of the Congress and the Muslim League to agree on a power-sharing arrangement in a united India.
The partition of India was the culmination of a complex political process marked by deep disagreements between the Congress and the Muslim League. While the Congress favored a united India with a strong central government, the League insisted on separate states for Muslims to protect their interests. The failure to reach a compromise on a power-sharing arrangement, combined with rising communal tensions, eventually led both parties to accept the final division of the subcontinent in 1947.

**269.** (C) Indirectly elected by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.
The Constituent Assembly was not directly elected by the people but through an indirect process. The members were chosen by the elected representatives in the Provincial Legislative Assemblies, with some seats also being filled through nomination by the princely states. This process was intended to ensure that the Assembly reflected a wide range of political and regional interests while completing the monumental task of drafting the fundamental law for a newly independent and democratic Indian republic.

**270.** (D) Assert sovereignty and avoid superpower rivalries.
During the Cold War, India's foreign policy of Non-Alignment was a strategic choice to avoid being drawn into the military alliances of either the United States or the Soviet Union. This approach allowed the newly independent nation to assert its sovereignty and focus on its own domestic development goals. By maintaining an independent stance, India could seek economic and technical cooperation from various countries while playing a constructive role in promoting global peace and cooperation.

**271.** (A) The racial arrogance of the British and the discrimination faced by Indians.
The blatant racial arrogance and systemic discrimination practiced by the British were major factors in the rise of Indian nationalism. Indians were often excluded from high administrative positions and faced social humiliation in their own country. This shared experience of being treated as second-class subjects created a powerful sense

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# CHAPTER 09
# World History

**1.** Which of the following best defines the concept of a 'Code of law'?
(A) A collection of traditional customs and oral histories passed down by elders.
(B) A systematic and written compilation of laws for a state or jurisdiction.
(C) A philosophical treatise on the nature of justice and administrative ethics.
(D) A series of temporary decrees issued by a monarch to resolve local disputes.

**2.** Identify the correct statement(s) from the following:
Statement I: The Roman Empire was characterized by a complex system of governance and a vast territorial expanse.
Statement II: The concept of 'innocent until proven guilty' was a minor, uninfluential aspect of Roman law.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**3.** The institution of slavery in the ancient world, particularly in the Roman Empire, was primarily based on which of the following?
(A) Religious affiliation and perceived heresy.
(B) Racial characteristics and ethnic origin.
(C) Debt obligations, warfare, and birth.
(D) Political dissent and Emperor opposition.

**4.** Which of these concepts is LEAST associated with the principles of Parliamentary Democracy?
(A) Socialism
(B) Renaissance
(C) Religion Reform Movement
(D) Aristocracy

**5.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Concepts)
P. Mercantilism
Q. Feudalism
R. Renaissance
S. Socialism
List II: (Associated Ideas)
1. Vassalage and manorial system
2. Humanism and revival of classical arts
3. Collective ownership of means of production
4. Accumulation of bullion and favorable trade balance
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

NODIA

**6.** The term 'Aristocracy' in its historical context refers to a form of government where power is held by:
(A) The general populace through elected representatives.
(B) A small, privileged, and hereditary noble class.
(C) A single, absolute monarch with total authority.
(D) The high clergy and influential religious leaders.

**7.** What was a major economic and social consequence of the 'Black Death' in medieval Europe?
(A) It significantly strengthened the power of feudal lords over their struggling serfs.
(B) It led to a massive surplus of labor and a corresponding decrease in urban wages.
(C) It resulted in the immediate establishment of stable parliamentary democracies.
(D) It caused a severe labor shortage, empowering peasants to demand better conditions.

**8.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Supremacy of the Church was a defining characteristic of the medieval period in Europe.
Reason (R): The Holy Roman Empire was a secular institution completely independent of papal authority.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**9.** The concept of 'Jamidari' as a system of land tenure and revenue collection is most directly associated with the history of:
(A) The Roman Empire
(B) Feudal Europe
(C) The Indian subcontinent
(D) Pre-revolutionary France

**10.** The core principle of 'Feudalism' is the relationship between:
(A) The lord and the vassal.
(B) The monarch and the parliament.
(C) The artisan and the merchant guild.
(D) The Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor.

**11.** Consider the following statements regarding the Renaissance:
1. It marked a sharp decline in artistic and scientific innovation.
2. It emphasized humanism and the study of classical antiquity.
3. It was characterized by an unquestioning acceptance of church doctrine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 2 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**12.** Parliamentary Democracy is a system of government where the executive branch derives its democratic legitimacy from, and is held accountable to, the:
(A) Hereditary monarch.
(B) National legislature.
(C) Independent judiciary.
(D) Landed aristocracy.

**13.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement regarding the core tenets of Socialism?
(A) It advocates for collective or state ownership of the means of production.
(B) It aims to reduce class disparities within society.
(C) It prioritizes the private accumulation of wealth and individual profit.
(D) It often emphasizes cooperation over competition.

**14.** The political ideologies of Nazism and Fascism share a common feature in their:
(A) Commitment to internationalism and global cooperation.
(B) Rejection of nationalism and expansionist militarism.
(C) Support for liberal democracy and individual freedoms.
(D) Extreme authoritarianism and totalitarian state control.

**15.** Arrange the following historical events in chronological order:
1. French Revolution
2. American Revolution
3. Start of the First World War
4. Unification of Germany

(A) 2, 1, 4, 3
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 4, 1, 3
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

**16.** The 'Eastern problem' in 19th-century European diplomacy primarily revolved around the political and territorial instability of which empire?
(A) The Austro-Hungarian Empire
(B) The Ottoman Empire
(C) The Russian Empire
(D) The British Empire

**17.** The concept of the 'Supremacy of the Church' in the medieval era implied that:
(A) Kings and emperors held authority superior to the Pope.
(B) The Church had ultimate authority over spiritual and temporal matters.

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(C) Scientific inquiry was considered the only valid path to truth.
(D) Individual interpretation of sacred scripture was encouraged.

**18.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Religion Reform Movement of the 16th century challenged the authority and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church.
Reason (R): The movement was a direct and intended consequence of the rise of Nazism in Germany.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**19.** The Holy Roman Empire was best described as:
(A) A direct successor to the unified Roman Empire of Augustus Caesar.
(B) A powerful and centralized nation-state in the modern political sense.
(C) A complex political entity in central Europe with a loose confederation.
(D) An empire established by Napoleon Bonaparte after the French Revolution.

**20.** The Religion Reform Movement, also known as the Protestant Reformation, was initiated primarily by the actions of:
(A) The Pope in Rome.
(B) Napoleon Bonaparte in France.
(C) Otto von Bismarck in Prussia.
(D) Martin Luther in Germany.

**21.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Event)
P. Crimean War
Q. French Revolution
R. Unification of Germany
S. Industrial Revolution
List II: (Primary Associated Concept)
1. Parliamentary Democracy
2. Nationalism
3. Eastern Problem
4. Economic Revolution
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

**22.** The economic theory of 'Mercantilism' promoted the idea that a nation's wealth was primarily measured by its:
(A) Level of industrial production.
(B) Amount of gold and silver reserves.
(C) Agricultural self-sufficiency.
(D) Commitment to global free trade.

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**23.** How did colonialism serve the interests of mercantilist powers?
(A) By promoting the industrialization of colonies for global trade.
(B) By encouraging free and fair trade between colonies and all nations.
(C) By establishing democratic institutions and legal rights in colonies.
(D) By providing raw materials and a captive market for finished goods.

**24.** The Industrial Revolution first began in which country?
(A) Great Britain
(B) France
(C) Germany
(D) The United States

**25.** The American Revolution of 1776 AD was primarily a struggle against the policies of which European power?
(A) France
(B) Spain
(C) Great Britain
(D) Portugal

**26.** Consider the following statements about the French Revolution of 1789 AD:
1. It was caused in part by a severe financial crisis and social inequality.
2. It led to the immediate and permanent establishment of a stable democracy in France.
3. Its ideals included 'Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity'.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only

(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1

**66.** The main objective of the Unification of Italy was to:
(A) Restore the Holy Roman Empire.
(B) Create a single political entity from the various states on the Italian peninsula.
(C) Establish a communist state in Italy.
(D) Conquer France and Austria.

**67.** Which of the following best describes Hitler's policy of 'Lebensraum' associated with Nazism?
(A) A policy of racial purity within Germany's existing borders.
(B) A program for internal economic self-sufficiency and growth.
(C) A diplomatic strategy of forming fascist state alliances.
(D) The goal of acquiring living space in Eastern Europe.

**68.** The American Revolution of 1776 was ideologically influenced by:
(A) Enlightenment ideas about natural rights and self-governance.
(B) Feudal traditions and the divine right of kings.
(C) The principles of mercantilism.
(D) The success of the Russian Revolution.

**69.** The Chinese Revolution of 1949 was the culmination of a civil war between which two main factions?
(A) The Monarchists and the Republicans.
(B) The Nationalists (Kuomintang) and the Communists.
(C) The Warlords and the Central Government.
(D) The Boxers and the Foreign Powers.

**70.** The Congress of Vienna (1815 AD) is most associated with the political principle of:
(A) Revolution
(B) Nationalism
(C) Legitimacy and Conservatism
(D) Socialism

**71.** Identify the correct pair:
(A) Nazism - Adolf Hitler
(B) Fascism - Karl Marx
(C) Mercantilism - Vladimir Lenin
(D) Socialism - Napoleon Bonaparte

**72.** A key cause of the French Revolution of 1789 AD was the:
(A) Successful implementation of socialist policies.
(B) Extreme social and economic inequality of the Old Regime.
(C) Unification of Germany under Bismarck.
(D) Military defeat in the Crimean War.

**73.** The 'Eastern problem' is so named because it concerned the territories of an empire located to the east of:
(A) North America
(B) The core powers of Western and Central Europe
(C) The Russian Empire
(D) China

**74.** Consider the following concepts:
1. Aristocracy
2. Parliamentary Democracy
3. Nazism

Which of these concepts are fundamentally based on principles of inequality?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**75.** Arrange the following revolutions in the correct chronological order of their beginning:
1. Chinese Revolution (Communist)
2. American Revolution
3. Russian Revolution (Bolshevik)
4. French Revolution

(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 4, 2, 1, 3
(C) 2, 3, 4, 1
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

**76.** The leader of the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution of 1917 was:
(A) Leon Trotsky
(B) Vladimir Lenin
(C) Joseph Stalin
(D) Alexander Kerensky

**77.** Which of the following is a key consequence of the First World War?

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(C) The United States
(D) The Austrian Empire

**38.** Which of the following is considered a primary long-term cause of the First World War?
(A) The complex system of military alliances and nationalism.
(B) The failure of the League of Nations.
(C) The economic depression of the 1930s.
(D) The rise of Nazism in Germany.

**39.** The Treaty of Versailles, which ended the First World War, imposed harsh punitive measures on which country?
(A) France
(B) Russia
(C) Germany
(D) Austria-Hungary

**40.** Consider the following statements regarding consequences of the First World War:
1. It led to the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian Empires.
2. It directly caused the Unification of Germany.
3. It prompted the creation of the League of Nations, a forerunner to the UN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 2 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**41.** Fascism, as exemplified by Mussolini's Italy, is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Extreme nationalism
(B) A one-party dictatorial state
(C) The promotion of class conflict and international proletarian revolution
(D) The suppression of political opposition

**42.** Nazism in Germany under Hitler is distinguished from Italian Fascism primarily by its:
(A) Emphasis on a corporate state.
(B) Focus on racial ideology.
(C) Use of mass rallies.
(D) Rejection of democracy.

**43.** Which event is widely considered the immediate trigger for the start of the Second World War in Europe?
(A) The bombing of Pearl Harbor.
(B) The Munich Agreement.
(C) The German invasion of Poland.
(D) The Italian invasion of Ethiopia.

**44.** Which of the following was NOT a major cause of the Second World War?
(A) The aggressive expansionist policies of Axis powers like Germany and Japan.
(B) The failure of the policy of appeasement.
(C) Unresolved issues stemming from the Treaty of Versailles.
(D) The success of the United Nations in preventing conflict.

**45.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Leader)
P. Adolf Hitler
Q. Vladimir Lenin
R. Benito Mussolini
S. Sun Yat-sen
List II: (Associated Ideology/Movement)
1. Chinese Revolution of 1911
2. Fascism
3. Russian Revolution of 1917
4. Nazism
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**46.** A significant result of the Second World War was the:
(A) Restoration of Germany's colonial empire.
(B) Division of Europe and the beginning of the Cold War.
(C) Decline of the USA and USSR as world powers.
(D) Re-establishment of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

**47.** The United Nations Organisation was established in 1945 with the primary purpose of:
(A) Promoting the economic principles of mercantilist trade across empires.
(B) Creating a single world government with

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(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**27.** The Chinese Revolution of 1911 resulted in:
(A) The establishment of the People's Republic of China under Mao Zedong.
(B) The successful repulsion of all foreign influence from Chinese soil.
(C) The restoration of the Ming Dynasty to the imperial throne in Beijing.
(D) The end of the Qing Dynasty and the founding of the Republic of China.

**28.** The Russian Revolution of 1917 led to the overthrow of which ruling dynasty?
(A) The Habsburgs
(B) The Romanovs
(C) The Hohenzollerns
(D) The Bourbons

**29.** A key distinction between the Chinese Revolution of 1911 and the Chinese Revolution of 1949 is that the 1949 revolution:
(A) Overthrew a monarchy.
(B) Was led by nationalists.
(C) Resulted in a communist government.
(D) Was primarily a peasant uprising.

**30.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The rise of Napoleon Bonaparte can be seen as a consequence of the instability that followed the French Revolution.
Reason (R): Napoleon successfully restored the Bourbon monarchy to the French throne.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**31.** The fall of Napoleon Bonaparte culminated in his final defeat at which battle?
(A) The Battle of Waterloo
(B) The Battle of Austerlitz
(C) The Battle of Trafalgar
(D) The Battle of Borodino

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**32.** The primary objective of the Congress of Vienna in 1815 AD was to:
(A) Promote revolutionary movements and liberal reforms across Europe.
(B) Establish a balance of power and restore pre-revolutionary monarchies.
(C) Create a unified European state under the leadership of Austria.
(D) Punish Russia for its role in the Napoleonic Wars and land expansion.

**33.** Which of the following events is considered part of the 'Eastern Problem'?
(A) The Unification of Italy
(B) The Crimean War (1854-1856)
(C) The American Revolution
(D) The Industrial Revolution

**34.** What was the principal aim of the Young Turk Movement in the early 20th century?
(A) To restore the absolute power of the Sultan in the Ottoman Empire.
(B) To create a separate Kurdish state through regional secession.
(C) To align the Ottoman Empire with Russia against Western powers.
(D) To modernize the empire by establishing a constitutional government.

**35.** The Balkan Wars of the early 20th century were primarily conflicts over:
(A) The control of trade routes in the Atlantic.
(B) The remaining Ottoman territories in Europe.
(C) The unification of Germany.
(D) The succession to the French throne.

**36.** The Unification of Germany was largely achieved under the leadership of which Prussian statesman?
(A) Kaiser Wilhelm I
(B) Otto von Bismarck
(C) Klemens von Metternich
(D) Napoleon III

**37.** The Unification of Italy, or Risorgimento, involved overcoming the influence of which major foreign power that controlled parts of the peninsula?
(A) The Russian Empire
(B) The British Empire

(D) Communism

**57.** Consider the following statements about Napoleon Bonaparte:
1. He rose to prominence during the later stages of the French Revolution.
2. He codified French law in the Napoleonic Code, which influenced legal systems worldwide.
3. His reign ended with the successful and permanent conquest of Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**58.** The 'Religion Reform Movement' led to the establishment of which major branch of Christianity?
(A) Protestantism
(B) Eastern Orthodoxy
(C) Roman Catholicism
(D) Coptic Christianity

**59.** The 'Supremacy of the Church' began to be seriously challenged on a wide scale during which period?
(A) The early Roman Empire
(B) The Dark Ages
(C) The Renaissance and the Religion Reform Movement
(D) The peak of Feudalism

**60.** Which of the following revolutions is NOT from the twentieth century?
(A) Chinese Revolution of 1911
(B) Russian Revolution of 1917
(C) French Revolution of 1789 AD
(D) Chinese Revolution of 1949

**61.** The policy of Mussolini in Fascist Italy included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The creation of a corporate state.
(B) The promotion of liberal democracy.
(C) Aggressive foreign policy and nationalism.
(D) The suppression of dissent through a secret police.

**62.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Treaty of Versailles was a key factor in creating conditions that led to the Second World War.
Reason (R): Its terms fostered deep resentment and economic hardship in Germany, which radical leaders like Hitler exploited.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**63.** The term 'Black Death' refers to which major historical event?
(A) The most devastating battle of the First World War.
(B) A political purge conducted by Napoleon.
(C) The economic crash preceding the Second World War.
(D) A massive bubonic plague pandemic in the 14th century.

**64.** What was a major effect of the Industrial Revolution on society?
(A) A decline in the overall population.
(B) A mass migration of population from urban to rural areas.
(C) The strengthening of the feudal system.
(D) The emergence of a new industrial working class and new social structures.

**65.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Term)
P. Nazism
Q. Socialism
R. Aristocracy
S. Parliamentary Democracy
List II: (Description)
1. Government by elected representatives.
2. Rule by a privileged, noble class.
3. Ideology of racial supremacy and aggressive nationalism.
4. System of social organization based on collective ownership.

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

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total legislative authority.
(C) Maintaining international peace and preventing future world wars.
(D) Enforcing the punitive terms of the original Treaty of Versailles.

**48.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Industrial Revolution led to significant urbanization and the growth of a new working class.
Reason (R): This transition was marked by universally excellent working conditions, high wages, and the absence of social conflict.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**49.** Which concept refers to a political and social system in medieval Europe where land was held by vassals in exchange for military service to a lord?
(A) Mercantilism
(B) Feudalism
(C) Socialism
(D) Fascism

**50.** The "rebirth" of art, literature, and learning in Europe, drawing inspiration from classical Greece and Rome, is known as the:
(A) Renaissance
(B) Religion Reform Movement
(C) Industrial Revolution
(D) Enlightenment

**51.** Identify the INCORRECT pair from the following:
(A) Russian Revolution of 1917 - Overthrow of the Tsar
(B) American Revolution of 1776 - Independence from Britain
(C) Chinese Revolution of 1949 - Establishment of a Communist state
(D) French Revolution of 1789 - Unification of Germany

**52.** The Berlin Congress of 1878 was convened to address issues arising from a war between which two empires?
(A) France and Prussia
(B) Russia and the Ottoman Empire
(C) Britain and China
(D) Austria and Italy

**53.** Arrange the following events related to the rise of dictatorial powers in the correct chronological sequence:
1. Mussolini's March on Rome
2. Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany
3. Outbreak of the Second World War
(A) 1, 2, 3
(B) 2, 1, 3
(C) 1, 3, 2
(D) 3, 1, 2

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**54.** The core conflict of the Crimean War (1854-1856) involved a coalition including Britain and France opposing the expansion of which empire into Ottoman territory?
(A) The Prussian Empire
(B) The Austrian Empire
(C) The Spanish Empire
(D) The Russian Empire

**55.** Identify the correct statement(s) from the following:
Statement I: The concept of Parliamentary Democracy champions the separation of powers and representation of the people.
Statement II: The concept of Aristocracy is based on rule by a hereditary, privileged class, which is contrary to modern democratic principles.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**56.** The historical phenomenon of colonialism is most closely linked as a practical application of which economic theory?
(A) Socialism
(B) Mercantilism
(C) Feudalism

(A) The establishment of the Holy Roman Empire.
(B) The strengthening of colonialism worldwide.
(C) The immediate start of the Cold War between the US and Germany.
(D) A profound sense of disillusionment and redrawing European maps.

**78.** The rise of dictatorial powers like Fascism and Nazism in the 1920s and 1930s was facilitated by:
(A) Economic instability, national humiliation, and fear of communism.
(B) A period of unprecedented global peace and prosperity.
(C) The success and appeal of democratic institutions across Europe.
(D) The strong leadership of the League of Nations.

**79.** Identify the correct statement(s) from the following:
Statement I: Mercantilism is an economic theory that advocates for minimal government intervention and free trade.
Statement II: Colonialism was often practiced as a means to achieve mercantilist goals.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**80.** The fall of Napoleon Bonaparte led directly to the:
(A) Unification of Germany.
(B) Russian Revolution.
(C) Outbreak of the First World War.
(D) Convening of the Congress of Vienna.

**81.** The term 'Slavery' in the context of the Roman Empire referred to a status where individuals were considered:
(A) Citizens with limited voting rights.
(B) The legal property of another person, with no personal rights.
(C) Indentured servants who would be freed after a fixed term.
(D) A lower caste with restricted professions.

**82.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Renaissance marked a shift in focus from the divine and otherworldly concerns of the Middle Ages to human potential and worldly affairs.
Reason (R): This shift is encapsulated in the intellectual movement known as Humanism.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**83.** The United Nations Organisation was founded as a direct result of the experiences of which conflict?
(A) The Napoleonic Wars
(B) The Crimean War
(C) The Second World War
(D) The First World War

**84.** The Unification of Germany was achieved through a series of wars planned by Bismarck against all the following EXCEPT:
(A) Russia
(B) Denmark
(C) Austria
(D) France

**85.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Event)
P. American Revolution
Q. French Revolution
R. Congress of Vienna
S. Start of Crimean War
List II: (Year)
1. 1789 AD
2. 1815 AD
3. 1854 AD
4. 1776 AD
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2

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**86.** Which of the following is a central characteristic of Fascism?
(A) Emphasis on individual liberty and rights.
(B) The subordination of the individual to the state.
(C) Internationalism and the abolition of nation-states.
(D) A commitment to pacifism.

**87.** The 'Jamidari' system is an example of a socio-economic structure related to:
(A) Industrial production
(B) Land ownership and revenue
(C) Maritime trade
(D) Religious hierarchy

**88.** The main difference between Nazism and other forms of Fascism was its:
(A) Economic policy
(B) System of government
(C) Use of propaganda
(D) Extreme and central focus on race

**89.** A major cause of the Russian Revolution of 1917 was:
(A) The success of the Tsarist regime in the First World War.
(B) Widespread discontent due to military defeats and autocracy.
(C) The popularity of the Tsarina Alexandra.
(D) The implementation of successful land reforms by the Tsar.

**90.** Consider the following statements regarding the 'Eastern Problem':
1. It primarily concerned the declining power of the Ottoman Empire.
2. European powers were concerned about the balance of power if the Ottoman Empire collapsed.
3. The Crimean War and the Balkan Wars were manifestations of this problem.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**91.** The concept of a 'Code of law' represents a move from:
(A) Written rules to arbitrary decisions.
(B) Arbitrary rule to a system of established rules.
(C) Democratic governance to autocratic rule.
(D) Religious law to secular tradition.

**92.** The Holy Roman Empire was effectively dissolved during which historical period?
(A) The Renaissance
(B) The Religion Reform Movement
(C) The Napoleonic Wars
(D) The First World War

**93.** The Young Turk Movement is associated with the rise of nationalism in:
(A) Germany
(B) Italy
(C) The Ottoman Empire
(D) Russia

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**94.** The immediate consequence of the Chinese Revolution of 1911 was the:
(A) Establishment of the People's Republic of China.
(B) Abdication of the last Qing emperor.
(C) Japanese invasion of Manchuria.
(D) Rise of Mao Zedong to supreme power.

**95.** In the context of Feudalism, what is a fief?
(A) A peasant bound to the land.
(B) An estate of land granted by a lord to a vassal.
(C) A tax paid to the Church.
(D) A medieval fortress.

**96.** Which of the following was a key result of the Second World War?
(A) The universal adoption of Fascism.
(B) The creation of the United Nations Organisation.
(C) The strengthening of colonial empires.
(D) The restoration of pre-WWI monarchies.

**97.** 'Slavery' as an institution was a prominent feature of the economy of which ancient civilization?
(A) Renaissance Florence
(B) The Roman Empire
(C) Bismarck's Germany
(D) 20th Century Russia

**98.** The rise of Napoleon Bonaparte is most directly a consequence of which major revolution?
(A) American Revolution
(B) Russian Revolution
(C) French Revolution
(D) Chinese Revolution

**99.** The policy of accumulating national wealth through a positive balance of trade, often involving protectionism and colonialism, is known as:
(A) Socialism
(B) Feudalism
(C) Mercantilism
(D) Fascism

**100.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Unification of Germany under Bismarck significantly altered the balance of power in Europe.
Reason (R): The newly formed German Empire was a weak, decentralized state with little industrial or military capacity.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**101.** Arrange the following historical periods/events in chronological order:
1. The Renaissance
2. The First World War
3. The Black Death
4. The French Revolution
(A) 3, 1, 4, 2
(B) 1, 3, 4, 2
(C) 3, 4, 1, 2
(D) 4, 1, 3, 2

**102.** The concept of 'Aristocracy' is antithetical to the modern ideal of:
(A) Monarchy
(B) Theocracy
(C) Meritocracy
(D) Oligarchy

**103.** The Industrial Revolution is termed a 'revolution' because it:
(A) Involved a violent overthrow of the government.
(B) Fundamentally changed society and technology.
(C) Was led by a single revolutionary figure.
(D) Resulted in a socialist state.

**104.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about the Treaty of Versailles?
(A) It forced Germany to accept a "war guilt" clause.
(B) It was seen as a humiliating and unjust peace.
(C) It established the United Nations Organisation.
(D) It required Germany to pay significant reparations.

**105.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Revolution)
P. American Revolution (1776)
Q. Chinese Revolution (1911)
R. Russian Revolution (1917)
S. Chinese Revolution (1949)
List II: (Key Outcome)
1. End of the Qing Dynasty
2. Establishment of the People's Republic of China
3. Independence from Great Britain
4. Establishment of the world's first major communist state
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

**106.** The ideology of Nazism was explicitly detailed in which book written by Adolf Hitler?
(A) The Communist Manifesto
(B) The Prince
(C) Mein Kampf (My Struggle)
(D) The Social Contract

**107.** Identify the correct statement(s) from the following:
Statement I: The Congress of Vienna in 1815 aimed to suppress the forces of nationalism and liberalism unleashed by the French Revolution.
Statement II: The Congress successfully created

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(D) Promoting peace through diplomacy.

**149.** The 'Supremacy of the Church' was most powerfully expressed through the office of the:
(A) Holy Roman Emperor
(B) King of France
(C) Pope
(D) Patriarch of Constantinople

**150.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Industrial Revolution began in the textile industry in Great Britain.
Reason (R): Innovations like the spinning jenny and the power loom dramatically increased the speed and scale of cloth production.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**151.** What was the 'Holy Roman Empire'?
(A) The empire founded by the Romans in antiquity.
(B) German-speaking political entity in Central Europe.
(C) A caliphate centered in the Middle East.
(D) The colonial empire of Spain.

**152.** The 'Religion Reform Movement' is also commonly known as the:
(A) Protestant Reformation
(B) Counter-Reformation
(C) Great Schism
(D) Catholic Revival

**153.** A key principle of 'Mercantilism' was the belief that:
(A) Global trade was a positive-sum game.
(B) Exporting more than importing creates strength.
(C) Colonies should be free to trade anywhere.
(D) Government should not interfere with economy.

**154.** The Chinese Revolution of 1911 and the Chinese Revolution of 1949 were different in their ultimate ideological outcomes, which were, respectively:
(A) Communist and Nationalist.
(B) Nationalist and Communist.
(C) Monarchist and Republican.
(D) Feudal and Monarchist.

**155.** The Congress of Vienna (1815) sought to restore the 'Ancien Régime', which refers to:
(A) The pre-revolutionary political and social order.
(B) The communist system in Russia.
(C) The Roman imperial system.
(D) The feudal system at its peak.

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**156.** The 'Eastern problem' in the 19th century was exacerbated by the conflicting interests of Britain and Russia over:
(A) The fate of the declining Ottoman Empire.
(B) The control of colonies in North America.
(C) The unification of Germany.
(D) The future of industrial technology.

**157.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (War/Conflict)
P. Crimean War
Q. American Revolution
R. Franco-Prussian War
S. First World War
List II: (Associated Issue)
1. Unification of Germany
2. System of Alliances, Imperialism, Nationalism
3. Eastern Problem
4. Colonial Independence
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

**158.** The concept of nationalism was a driving force behind all of the following events EXCEPT:
(A) Unification of Germany
(B) Unification of Italy
(C) The Balkan Wars
(D) The establishment of Feudalism

**159.** The consequences and effects of the First World War include:
(A) The rise of the United States as a creditor nation.

(B) The desire to establish a socialist society.
(C) Grievances over "taxation without representation".
(D) The influence of the French Revolution.

**118.** The rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte spans the period between:
(A) The end of the French Revolution and the Congress of Vienna.
(B) The American Revolution and the French Revolution.
(C) The Congress of Vienna and the Unification of Germany.
(D) The end of the First World War and the start of the Second World War.

**119.** A major consequence of the Second World War was:
(A) The strengthening of European colonialism.
(B) The restoration of the Holy Roman Empire.
(C) The emergence of the USA and USSR as superpowers.
(D) The universal rejection of nationalism.

**120.** Which of these was a direct effect of the First World War?
(A) The unification of Italy.
(B) The beginning of the Industrial Revolution.
(C) The Chinese Communist Revolution.
(D) The collapse of the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires.

**121.** The 'Eastern Problem' of the 19th and early 20th centuries is also known as:
(A) The Western Question
(B) The Sick Man of Europe Question
(C) The German Question
(D) The Italian Question

**122.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Ideology)
P. Socialism
Q. Mercantilism
R. Fascism
S. Feudalism
List II: (Core Principle)
1. State power and extreme nationalism
2. Land-based hierarchy and obligation
3. Collective ownership and economic equality
4. National wealth through trade surplus
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

**123.** The Unification of Italy was a complex process involving all of the following figures EXCEPT:
(A) Giuseppe Mazzini
(B) Count Cavour
(C) Giuseppe Garibaldi
(D) Otto von Bismarck

**124.** The term 'Renaissance Man' refers to an individual who:
(A) Is a devout and secluded monk.
(B) Has broad knowledge in many fields.
(C) Is a powerful feudal lord.
(D) Is a professional mercenary.

**125.** The establishment of the United Nations Organisation represented an attempt to learn from the failure of which earlier organization?
(A) The Congress of Vienna
(B) The Concert of Europe
(C) The Holy Alliance
(D) The League of Nations

**126.** Consider the following statements about the causes of World War II:
1. The aggressive, expansionist policies of Hitler's Germany.
2. The failure of the international community to effectively challenge this aggression.
3. The economic prosperity and stability enjoyed by Germany under the Weimar Republic.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

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**127.** Which of the following is a key feature of Parliamentary Democracy?
(A) Rule by a single, unelected leader.
(B) Fusion of executive and legislative powers.
(C) The prohibition of political parties.
(D) Government based on hereditary succession.

**128.** The concept of 'Socialism' emerged largely as a response to the:
(A) Power of the medieval church.
(B) Conditions created by the Industrial Revolution.
(C) Mercantilist policies of the 16th century.
(D) Decline of the Roman Empire.

**129.** The main goal of the Berlin Congress of 1878, from the perspective of powers like Britain and Austria-Hungary, was to:
(A) Encourage Russian expansion into the Balkans.
(B) Dismantle the Ottoman Empire completely.
(C) Limit Russian gains against the Ottoman Empire.
(D) Promote the unification of Germany.

**130.** Arrange the following events in chronological order:
1. Berlin Congress
2. Crimean War
3. Balkan Wars
4. Young Turk Movement
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 1, 4, 3
(C) 2, 4, 1, 3
(D) 4, 2, 1, 3

**131.** The fall of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, is the symbolic starting point of which major revolution?
(A) The American Revolution
(B) The Russian Revolution
(C) The French Revolution
(D) The Chinese Revolution of 1911

**132.** The Russian Revolution of 1917 had two distinct phases, the February Revolution and the October Revolution. The October Revolution brought which group to power?
(A) The Mensheviks
(B) The Constitutional Democrats
(C) The Bolsheviks
(D) The Tsarist loyalists

**133.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): Colonialism was an economic system that benefited both the colonizer and the colonized equally.
Reason (R): Colonies were established as equal partners in trade and governance.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) Both A and R are false.

**134.** Which of the following was NOT a major European empire that collapsed as a result of the First World War?
(A) Russian Empire
(B) Austro-Hungarian Empire
(C) Ottoman Empire
(D) British Empire

**135.** The rise of Fascism in Italy under Mussolini was characterized by the use of paramilitary squads known as:
(A) The Red Guards
(B) The Brownshirts (SA)
(C) The Blackshirts
(D) The White Army

**136.** The policy of 'appeasement' in the 1930s is most associated with the Allied response to:
(A) The Russian Revolution.
(B) The unification of Italy.
(C) The expansionist ambitions of Hitler's Germany.
(D) The economic policies of mercantilism.

**137.** Identify the correct statement(s) from the following:
Statement I: The Black Death drastically reduced the population of Europe in the 14th century.
Statement II: This demographic collapse had little to no effect on the existing feudal economic and social structures.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**138.** The Unification of Germany was completed in 1871 after Prussia's victory in the:

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(A) Crimean War
(B) Austro-Prussian War
(C) Franco-Prussian War
(D) Seven Years' War

**139.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Term)
P. Jamidari System
Q. Renaissance (origin)
R. Nazism
S. Feudalism (classic model)
List II: (Associated Country/Region)
1. Germany
2. Indian Subcontinent
3. Western Europe
4. Italian City-States
Codes:
(A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

**140.** Which of the following best captures the essence of the 'Renaissance'?
(A) A period of intense religious warfare.
(B) A cultural rebirth challenging medieval norms.
(C) Political unification of Europe under one emperor.
(D) The establishment of socialist communes in Italy.

**141.** The immediate cause of the First World War was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of which empire?
(A) The Austro-Hungarian Empire
(B) The German Empire
(C) The Russian Empire
(D) The Ottoman Empire

**142.** The system of 'feudalism' was primarily based on:
(A) A monetary economy and free labor.
(B) A centralized bureaucracy and a standing army.
(C) Obligations based on land tenure.
(D) Democratic elections for leaders.

**143.** Consider the following statements about the causes of the French Revolution:
1. The intellectual influence of the Enlightenment.
2. The financial crisis of the French state.
3. The rigid social structure of the Three Estates.
Which of the statements given above contributed to the revolution?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**144.** 'Socialism' as a political and economic theory is most critical of:
(A) The divine right of kings.
(B) The capitalist system and private property.
(C) The authority of the church.
(D) The principles of nationalism.

**145.** The rise of dictatorial powers in Germany and Italy in the 1920s and 1930s demonstrates:
(A) The appeal of authoritarian solutions during crisis.
(B) The inherent stability of democratic governments.
(C) The success of internationalist and pacifist movements.
(D) The final triumph of feudalism.

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**146.** Which revolution established the first Communist state in world history?
(A) The French Revolution of 1789
(B) The American Revolution of 1776
(C) The Russian Revolution of 1917
(D) The Chinese Revolution of 1911

**147.** The Roman Empire's legal legacy, including concepts like written law and jurisprudence, directly influenced the development of which concept?
(A) Feudalism
(B) Code of law
(C) Socialism
(D) Nazism

**148.** The era of Napoleon Bonaparte is significant for:
(A) Spreading revolution ideals and empire creation.
(B) Re-establishing feudalism throughout France.
(C) Successfully defeating Great Britain.

**170.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The 'Black Death' led to a significant labor shortage in 14th-century Europe.
Reason (R): The shortage weakened the position of surviving laborers and peasants, allowing lords to impose harsher feudal obligations.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**171.** The 'Jamidari' system, 'Feudalism', and 'Slavery' are all historical concepts primarily related to:
(A) Democratic processes.
(B) Systems of social hierarchy and economic control.
(C) Artistic movements.
(D) 20th-century revolutionary ideologies.

**172.** The rise of dictatorial powers in the inter-war period was a rejection of the principles of:
(A) Nationalism and militarism.
(B) Liberalism and Parliamentary Democracy.
(C) Socialism and communism.
(D) Aristocracy and monarchy.

**173.** The core idea of a 'Code of law' is to ensure that justice is:
(A) Administered differently based on social status.
(B) Swift and often arbitrary.
(C) Based on consistent, public, and non-personal rules.
(D) Determined solely by the monarch's will.

**174.** The Unification of Italy and the Unification of Germany in the 19th century are both prime examples of the powerful force of:
(A) Nationalism
(B) Socialism
(C) Internationalism
(D) Mercantilism

**175.** The First World War was fundamentally different from previous conflicts in its:
(A) Use of cavalry charges.
(B) Limited impact on civilian populations.
(C) Total scale, industrial nature, and global involvement.
(D) Short duration and low number of casualties.

**176.** Which of the following is the most appropriate definition for 'Colonialism'?
(A) The theory that a country's power is based on its gold reserves.
(B) The policy of acquiring political control and economic exploitation.
(C) A system of social organization with community property ownership.
(D) A cultural movement emphasizing human potential and antiquity study.

**177.** The Chinese Revolution of 1949 was led by:
(A) Sun Yat-sen
(B) Mao Zedong
(C) Chiang Kai-shek
(D) Puyi

**178.** The term "Iron Curtain," coined after the Second World War, refers to the ideological and physical division of:
(A) Germany into East and West.
(B) Europe into Western and Soviet spheres.
(C) The world between colonial powers and colonies.
(D) Korea into North and South.

**179.** The economic policies of Hitler's Nazism and Mussolini's Fascism were both characterized by:
(A) State direction and control to serve national needs.
(B) A commitment to laissez-faire free market capitalism.
(C) The abolition of all private property.
(D) The promotion of international free trade.

**180.** The "Eastern Problem" concerned the fate of the Ottoman Empire. Which of the following was NOT a direct participant or deeply interested party in this problem?
(A) Russia
(B) United States of America
(C) Great Britain
(D) Austria-Hungary

**181.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Figure)

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(B) The successful establishment of lasting peace in Europe.
(C) The strengthening of monarchical rule across the continent.
(D) The decline of nationalist sentiments.

**160.** Consider the following statements about Fascism and Nazism:
1. Both were totalitarian ideologies that rejected democracy.
2. Both were fundamentally internationalist and promoted global worker solidarity.
3. Nazism incorporated a unique and central element of racial theory that was less pronounced in Italian Fascism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**161.** A primary cause of the Second World War was the failure of which treaty to create a lasting peace?
(A) The Treaty of Westphalia
(B) The Congress of Vienna
(C) The Treaty of Versailles
(D) The Berlin Congress Treaty

**162.** Identify the correct statement(s) from the following:
Statement I: The establishment of the United Nations Organisation in 1945 was a response to the devastation of the Second World War.
Statement II: The UN's primary goal was to serve as a military alliance against the Soviet Union.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**163.** The decline of 'feudalism' in Europe was accelerated by:
(A) The rise of a money-based economy and growth of towns.
(B) The successful reforms implemented by feudal lords.
(C) The lack of any major wars or plagues.
(D) The unification of Italy.

**164.** The 'Renaissance' is so named because it was seen as a rebirth of:
(A) Feudal loyalties.
(B) The supremacy of the Church.
(C) Classical Greek and Roman culture and learning.
(D) Mercantilist economic policy.

**165.** The 'Reign of Terror' was a radical and violent phase of which revolution?
(A) The American Revolution
(B) The French Revolution
(C) The Russian Revolution
(D) The Chinese Revolution of 1911

**166.** Which two 20th-century revolutions resulted in communist states?
(A) Chinese (1911) and Russian (1917)
(B) Russian (1917) and Chinese (1949)
(C) Chinese (1911) and Chinese (1949)
(D) American (1776) and French (1789)

**167.** Arrange the following leaders' rise to supreme power in chronological order:
1. Napoleon Bonaparte
2. Adolf Hitler
3. Vladimir Lenin
4. Benito Mussolini

(A) 1, 3, 4, 2
(B) 1, 4, 3, 2
(C) 3, 1, 4, 2
(D) 4, 3, 1, 2

**168.** The "Scramble for Africa" in the late 19th century is a prime example of:
(A) Colonialism
(B) Socialism
(C) Feudalism
(D) The Renaissance

**169.** Bismarck's policy of 'Realpolitik' for the unification of Germany emphasized:
(A) Idealistic and moral considerations.
(B) The pursuit of national interest through power politics.
(C) Alliance with the Catholic Church.
(D) Pacifism and diplomacy alone.

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(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**191.** The Young Turk Movement aimed to reform and modernize which ailing empire?
(A) The Austro-Hungarian Empire
(B) The Russian Empire
(C) The Holy Roman Empire
(D) The Ottoman Empire

**192.** Which of the following was an effect of the Second World War?
(A) The restoration of absolute monarchies in Europe.
(B) The beginning of the process of decolonization.
(C) The final victory of Fascism as a global ideology.
(D) A long period of isolationism for the United States.

**193.** The Roman Empire is significant in world history for all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Its legal and administrative systems.
(B) Its engineering and architectural achievements.
(C) The spread of Latin and the foundation of Romance languages.
(D) The invention of the printing press.

**194.** The concept of a 'Parliamentary Democracy' is in direct opposition to:
(A) An absolute monarchy or dictatorship.
(B) A republic.
(C) A federal system of government.
(D) A constitutional monarchy.

**195.** The 'Black Death' contributed to the end of feudalism by:
(A) Strengthening the bonds between lord and serf.
(B) Creating a labor surplus and driving down wages.
(C) Reinforcing the Church's control over society.
(D) Increasing labor value and allowing peasant freedom demands.

**196.** Consider the following factors:
1. Nationalism
2. Militarism
3. Imperialism
4. Alliance System

Which of the following conflicts are these factors cited as major long-term causes?
(A) The Napoleonic Wars
(B) The Second World War
(C) The First World War
(D) The Crimean War

**197.** Mussolini's policy for Fascist Italy emphasized:
(A) The importance of the individual over the state.
(B) Pacifism and international cooperation.
(C) The promotion of multi-party democracy.
(D) The absolute authority and spiritual value of the State.

**198.** The Treaty of Versailles is often criticized for:
(A) Creating the grievances that fueled the rise of Nazism.
(B) Being too lenient on Germany.
(C) Establishing the Soviet Union.
(D) Ignoring the principle of national self-determination for France.

**199.** The Chinese Revolution of 1911 was led by which figure, often called the "Father of the Nation" in China?
(A) Mao Zedong
(B) Chiang Kai-shek
(C) Sun Yat-sen
(D) Yuan Shikai

**200.** What was a primary motivation for the economic revolution of 'colonialism'?
(A) To secure raw materials and markets for the colonizing power.
(B) To spread democratic ideals to other parts of the world.
(C) To learn from the advanced technologies of colonized peoples.
(D) To promote global free trade for all nations.

**201.** The era of Napoleon Bonaparte was brought to a definitive end by the:
(A) Russian winter campaign.
(B) Treaty of Versailles.
(C) The Congress of Vienna and the Battle of Waterloo.

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P. Otto von Bismarck
Q. Napoleon Bonaparte
R. Martin Luther
S. Klemens von Metternich

List II: (Historical Significance)
1. Leading figure of the Religion Reform Movement
2. Architect of the Unification of Germany
3. Dominant figure at the Congress of Vienna
4. Rose to power after the French Revolution, created a European Empire

Codes:
(A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

**182.** A key cause of the Second World War is:
(A) The consequences of the Treaty of Versailles.
(B) The rise of socialism in Russia.
(C) The decline of the Ottoman Empire.
(D) The Industrial Revolution.

**183.** Identify the correct statement(s) from the following:
Statement I: The French Revolution of 1789 championed the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity.
Statement II: The rise of Napoleon Bonaparte represented a complete and total fulfillment of these democratic ideals.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**184.** The establishment of Parliamentary Democracy in England was a gradual process that involved limiting the power of the:
(A) Peasantry
(B) Merchant class
(C) Clergy
(D) Monarchy

**185.** Arrange the following historical events in chronological order:
1. Outbreak of the First World War.
2. The Congress of Vienna.
3. The rise of Napoleon to power.
(A) 2, 3, 1
(B) 3, 2, 1
(C) 1, 3, 2
(D) 3, 1, 2

**186.** The concept of 'Aristocracy' is a system of rule by:
(A) The best and most virtuous citizens.
(B) The wealthiest citizens.
(C) A single religious leader.
(D) Elected officials.

**187.** The Russian Revolution of 1917 resulted in Russia's withdrawal from which major conflict?
(A) The First World War
(B) The Second World War
(C) The Crimean War
(D) The Napoleonic Wars

**188.** What is the fundamental difference between Socialism and Fascism?
(A) Fascism is nationalist, while socialism is internationalist.
(B) Socialism supports classes, while Fascism seeks to eliminate them.
(C) Fascism is economic, while socialism is purely political.
(D) There is no fundamental difference between the two.

**189.** The Industrial Revolution created new social classes, including a large urban proletariat and a:
(A) New industrial bourgeoisie.
(B) Powerful feudal aristocracy.
(C) Class of slave-owners.
(D) Guild of master craftsmen.

**190.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Unification of Italy was a straightforward process led by a single leader and a single idea.
Reason (R): It involved complex diplomacy, revolutionary fervor, and military campaigns led by different figures like Cavour, Mazzini, and Garibaldi.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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a permanent peace in Europe, preventing all major wars for the next two centuries.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**108.** The 'Supremacy of the Church' in medieval Europe meant that:
(A) The Pope's authority was considered secondary to that of secular rulers.
(B) The church held significant political and social power.
(C) Scientific discovery was the primary role of the clergy.
(D) All religions were treated with equal respect by the state.

**109.** Consider the following policies associated with Nazism and Fascism:
1. Glorification of the state and military.
2. Suppression of individual liberties and political dissent.
3. Emphasis on racial purity and antisemitism (particularly in Nazism).

Which of the policies given above are characteristic of these dictatorial powers?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**110.** A state where the government attempts to control every aspect of public and private life is best described as:
(A) A Parliamentary Democracy
(B) A Feudal State
(C) A Totalitarian State
(D) A Mercantilist State

**111.** The Balkan Wars are considered a significant prelude to the First World War because they:
(A) Led to the unification of Germany.
(B) Demonstrated the weakness of the Russian military.
(C) Increased tensions and rivalries between Great Powers.
(D) Resolved all ethnic conflicts in the region.

**112.** The economic system that preceded industrial capitalism in the West, characterized by guild-based artisans and a land-based aristocracy, is best known as:
(A) Feudalism
(B) Socialism
(C) Mercantilism
(D) Colonialism

**113.** The central idea of the Religion Reform Movement was:
(A) The Pope's infallibility.
(B) The necessity of religious crusades.
(C) Salvation through faith alone.
(D) The merger of church and state.

**114.** The Roman Empire's contribution to the concept of 'Code of law' is best exemplified by the:
(A) Ten Commandments
(B) Code of Hammurabi
(C) Magna Carta
(D) Principles of Justinian's Code

**115.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The Chinese Revolution of 1949 brought the Communist Party to power under Mao Zedong.
Reason (R): This revolution was a direct and immediate result of the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**116.** The political philosophy of Nazism is fundamentally incompatible with:
(A) Nationalism
(B) Militarism
(C) Parliamentary Democracy
(D) Authoritarianism

**117.** The primary reason for the American Revolution of 1776 was:
(A) A dispute over the succession to the British throne.

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(D) French Revolution itself.

**202.** The concept of 'Socialism' fundamentally advocates for:
(A) An economy driven by private enterprise and profit.
(B) Public ownership or control of production.
(C) A society structured around a hereditary nobility.
(D) Expansion of colonial empires for national glory.

**203.** Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Mercantilism - Adam Smith
(B) Fascism - Mussolini
(C) Nazism - Hitler
(D) Russian Revolution - Lenin

**204.** The Unification of Germany under Bismarck demonstrated the successful application of:
(A) Liberal idealism
(B) Pacifist diplomacy
(C) Socialist revolution
(D) Realpolitik and military power

**205.** Match the items in List I with the items in List II.
List I: (Century)
P. 18th Century
Q. 19th Century (latter half)
R. Early 20th Century
S. Mid 20th Century
List II: (Major Revolution)
1. Unification of Germany and Italy
2. Russian Revolution (1917)
3. American and French Revolutions
4. Chinese Revolution (1949)
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

**206.** The 'Supremacy of the Church' was most effectively challenged by which two movements?
(A) Feudalism and the Roman Empire
(B) The Renaissance and the Religion Reform Movement
(C) Socialism and Nazism
(D) The Industrial Revolution and Colonialism

**207.** A government run by a small group of powerful people, often from a wealthy or noble class, is an 'Aristocracy' or a(n):
(A) Democracy
(B) Theocracy
(C) Monarchy
(D) Oligarchy

**208.** Identify the correct statement(s) from the following:
Statement I: The major revolutions of the 20th century, like the Russian and Chinese, often resulted in totalitarian states.
Statement II: The 18th-century American Revolution was primarily aimed at establishing a totalitarian state.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**209.** The causes of the First World War were complex and multifaceted, but the 'spark' was:
(A) The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
(B) Germany's invasion of Belgium.
(C) The sinking of the Lusitania.
(D) The Russian mobilization.

**210.** Consider the following statements regarding historical processes:
1. The Industrial Revolution concentrated workers in urban factories.
2. Early industrial capitalism often involved poor working conditions and economic inequality.
3. Socialism emerged as a critique of capitalism and a proposal for an alternative.
Which of the following describes the relationship between these statements?
(A) Socialism caused the Industrial Revolution.
(B) Industrial Revolution consequences gave rise to Socialism.
(C) The Industrial Revolution was a failed socialist experiment.
(D) There is no relationship between the Industrial Revolution and Socialism.

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**211.** Read the following statements and select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A): The United Nations Organisation was created after WWII to maintain international peace and security.
Reason (R): Its predecessor, the League of Nations, had been highly successful in preventing the Second World War.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**212.** The 'Eastern Problem' refers to the:
(A) Rise of Japan as a military power.
(B) Situation arising from the decline of the Ottoman Empire.
(C) Opium Wars in China.
(D) Russian expansion eastward into Siberia.

**213.** The economic revolution of 'Mercantilism' is best described as:
(A) A form of economic nationalism for state power.
(B) Early socialism based on collective farming.
(C) A system of free trade and open markets.
(D) The economic system of the feudal manor.

**214.** The 'Code of law' in the Roman Empire, such as the Twelve Tables, was significant because it:
(A) Applied only to the emperor.
(B) Was a secret text known only to priests.
(C) Changed daily based on the consul's mood.
(D) Made law accessible and applicable to all citizens.

**215.** The 'Reformation' or 'Religion Reform Movement' led to a long period of:
(A) Unprecedented religious unity in Europe.
(B) Religious conflict between Catholic and Protestant states.
(C) Decline in literacy and learning.
(D) The complete disappearance of the Catholic Church.

**216.** The political philosophy of Nazism was based on all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The concept of an Aryan master race.
(B) An aggressive, expansionist foreign policy.
(C) Extreme nationalism and the Führerprinzip.
(D) A belief in the value of liberal democracy.

**217.** The Congress of Vienna (1815) attempted to turn back the clock on the forces of:
(A) Nationalism and liberalism.
(B) Monarchy and religion.
(C) Feudalism and aristocracy.
(D) Mercantilism and colonialism.

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**218.** The revolutions in America (1776) and France (1789) both:
(A) Were inspired in part by Enlightenment ideas.
(B) Resulted in immediate stable republics.
(C) Led to the execution of their respective kings.
(D) Ended with the restoration of previous power.

**219.** The Unification of Italy and the Unification of Germany shared the common enemy of:
(A) The Russian Empire
(B) The British Empire
(C) The Austrian Empire
(D) The Ottoman Empire

**220.** The Second World War was a 'total war' in that it:
(A) Was fought only by professional soldiers.
(B) Was confined to a small geographic area.
(C) Was resolved quickly through diplomacy.
(D) Involved total mobilization of economy and civilians.

**221.** Which historical concept is defined by a social hierarchy of lords, vassals, and serfs, based on land tenure and mutual obligation?
(A) Feudalism
(B) Socialism
(C) Mercantilism
(D) Parliamentary Democracy

**222.** The term 'Slavery' signifies a condition of:
(A) Being legally owned as property.
(B) Temporary servitude for debt.
(C) Being a non-citizen with limited rights.
(D) Low-wage factory labor.

**223.** The 'Renaissance' began in:
(A) The kingdom of France.

(B) The city-states of Italy.
(C) The Holy Roman Empire.
(D) The British Isles.

**224.** Which of these was a major 18th-century revolution?
(A) Russian Revolution of 1917
(B) Chinese Revolution of 1911
(C) Unification of Germany
(D) American Revolution of 1776 AD

**225.** Napoleon Bonaparte's final defeat occurred at:
(A) Austerlitz
(B) The Congress of Vienna
(C) Versailles
(D) The Battle of Waterloo

**226.** The Berlin Congress and the Crimean War are both events associated with the:
(A) Unification of Italy
(B) French Revolution
(C) Rise of Nazism
(D) Eastern Problem

**227.** A key cause of the First World War was:
(A) The failure of the United Nations.
(B) The aggressive expansionism of Nazi Germany.
(C) A rigid system of entangling military alliances.
(D) The fall of the Roman Empire.

**228.** Fascism as a dictatorial power rose in which country under Mussolini?
(A) Italy
(B) Germany
(C) Russia
(D) Spain

**229.** The United Nations Organisation was established as a result of which major global conflict?
(A) The First World War
(B) The Napoleonic Wars
(C) The Second World War
(D) The Cold War

**230.** The 'Black Death' had a profound impact on medieval Europe by:
(A) Causing labor shortages and challenging the feudal system.
(B) Strengthening the power of the aristocracy over the peasantry.
(C) Leading to a period of population growth.
(D) Unifying Europe under the Holy Roman Emperor.

**231.** The concept 'Supremacy of the Church' is most associated with which historical period?
(A) The Roman Empire
(B) The Enlightenment
(C) The 20th Century
(D) The European Middle Ages

**232.** The economic revolution of Mercantilism was closely followed and then superseded by the economic system of:
(A) Feudalism
(B) Industrial Capitalism
(C) Socialism
(D) Barter

**233.** The Chinese Revolution of 1949 is significant for establishing:
(A) A parliamentary democracy.
(B) The Republic of China on the mainland.
(C) A constitutional monarchy.
(D) The People's Republic of China.

**234.** The rise of dictatorial powers like Fascism and Nazism occurred during which period?
(A) The 18th century
(B) The High Middle Ages
(C) The era of the Roman Empire
(D) The inter-war period.

**235.** The causes, consequences, and effects of the First World War include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The successful unification of the Holy Roman Empire
(B) The Treaty of Versailles
(C) The collapse of several empires
(D) The rise of the United States as a world power

**236.** The Unification of Germany was a victory for the forces of:
(A) Socialism and internationalism.
(B) Nationalism and Prussian militarism.
(C) Papal authority and Catholicism.
(D) French liberalism.

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(C) French Revolution's aftermath
(D) Second World War

**263.** The unification of both Germany and Italy was a manifestation of which powerful 19th-century ideology?
(A) Socialism
(B) Nationalism
(C) Liberalism
(D) Feudalism

**264.** One of the main causes of the First World War was:
(A) The rise of Hitler
(B) The American Civil War
(C) A system of entangling alliances
(D) The failure of the Berlin Congress

**265.** The rise of dictatorial powers like Fascism and Nazism was facilitated by:
(A) Post-WWI economic crises and political instability.
(B) A long period of European peace and prosperity.
(C) The strength of the League of Nations.
(D) The spread of democratic ideals.

**266.** A major cause of the Second World War was:
(A) Unresolved issues of the Treaty of Versailles.
(B) The success of the Russian Revolution.
(C) The decline of the Roman Empire.
(D) The mercantilist economic policies.

**267.** The Roman Empire's legacy includes a sophisticated:
(A) System of parliamentary democracy.
(B) Code of law and governance principles.
(C) Industrial manufacturing base.
(D) Socialist economic structure.

**268.** 'Slavery', 'Aristocracy', and 'Feudalism' are all systems built upon:
(A) Inherent social and legal inequality.
(B) The principle of human equality.
(C) The idea of social mobility through merit.
(D) Universal suffrage.

**269.** The 'Black Death' contributed indirectly to the Renaissance by:
(A) Strengthening the feudal system.
(B) Disruptions challenging the old order.
(C) Promoting religious dogmatism.
(D) Leading to European isolation.

**270.** 'Parliamentary Democracy' contrasts most sharply with:
(A) Absolute Monarchy and Dictatorship
(B) A Republic
(C) Federalism
(D) A Constitutional Monarchy

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**271.** 'Socialism' arose as a critique of the inequalities produced by:
(A) The Roman Empire
(B) The Industrial Revolution
(C) The Supremacy of the Church
(D) The Feudal System

**272.** 'Nazism' and 'Fascism' are both examples of:
(A) Far-right totalitarian ideologies.
(B) 20th-century democratic movements.
(C) 18th-century economic theories.
(D) Medieval religious movements.

**273.** The 'Religion Reform Movement' shattered the religious unity of:
(A) The Islamic world
(B) Western Christendom
(C) The Buddhist world
(D) The Russian Orthodox Church

**274.** The 'Industrial Revolution' is considered an 'economic revolution' because it:
(A) Was a quick and bloodless coup.
(B) Re-established the feudal system.
(C) Distributed wealth equally among all citizens.
(D) Fundamentally changed manufacturing and lifestyles.

**275.** The revolution in America (1776 AD) and the revolution in France (1789 AD) are considered the major revolutions of which century?
(A) 18th Century
(B) 17th Century
(C) 19th Century
(D) 20th Century

**276.** The Chinese Revolution of 1949 brought which leader to power?
(A) Sun Yat-sen
(B) Vladimir Lenin

Prussia.
(D) The Russian peasants' demand for land.

**250.** The rise of both Fascism and Nazism can be seen as a reaction against:
(A) Liberal democracy and communism.
(B) Monarchism and aristocracy.
(C) Nationalism and militarism.
(D) The industrial revolution.

**251.** The 'Eastern problem' was a central issue in European diplomacy for over a century because:
(A) Rapid industrialization of the empire threatened Europe.
(B) Potential empire collapse threatened the balance of power.
(C) The Ottoman Empire was attempting to conquer Russia.
(D) An alliance between the Holy Roman and Ottoman empires.

**252.** The 'Balkan Wars' immediately preceded and increased tensions leading to:
(A) The Second World War
(B) The First World War
(C) The Napoleonic Wars
(D) The Unification of Italy

**253.** Which two events mark the beginning and end of the 'era of Napoleon Bonaparte'?
(A) The French Revolution and the First World War
(B) His rise to power and the Congress of Vienna
(C) The American Revolution and the Unification of Germany
(D) The Industrial and Russian revolutions.

**254.** A major ideological component of 'Nazism' not explicitly central to Italian 'Fascism' was:
(A) Antisemitism and racial ideology
(B) Nationalism
(C) Totalitarianism
(D) Militarism

**255.** The 'Code of law' is a foundational concept for:
(A) The rule of law
(B) Arbitrary rule
(C) Anarchy
(D) Feudal obligation

**256.** The system of 'Feudalism' was characterized by a decentralized political structure and an economy based on:
(A) Industrial manufacturing
(B) Agriculture and land ownership
(C) International trade
(D) A universal currency

**257.** The 'Renaissance' is associated with a renewed interest in the cultures of:
(A) Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia
(B) Ancient Greece and Rome
(C) The Viking and Germanic tribes
(D) Ancient China and India

**258.** The event that triggered the American Revolution in 1776 AD was rooted in conflicts over:
(A) Taxation and governance
(B) Religion
(C) Slavery
(D) Succession to the throne

**259.** The Chinese Revolution of 1911 ended millennia of rule by:
(A) Dynasties and emperors
(B) A parliament
(C) Warlords
(D) A communist party

**260.** The Russian Revolution of 1917 led to the establishment of a state based on the ideology of:
(A) Socialism/Communism
(B) Mercantilism
(C) Fascism
(D) Parliamentary Democracy

**261.** The Congress of Vienna (1815 AD) was a diplomatic meeting aimed at:
(A) Spreading revolution across Europe.
(B) Creating the United Nations.
(C) Organizing the unification of Germany.
(D) Redrawing the map of post-Napoleonic Europe.

**262.** The Crimean War, Berlin Congress, Young Turk movement, and Balkan wars are all components of the:
(A) Rise of Nationalism in Germany
(B) Eastern Problem

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**290.** The immediate trigger of the Second World War in Europe was the invasion of Poland by:
(A) The Soviet Union
(B) Italy
(C) Germany
(D) France

**291.** The concept of a 'Code of law' is essential for establishing a society based on:
(A) The whim of the ruler.
(B) The rule of law.
(C) Tradition alone.
(D) Social chaos.

**292.** The institution of 'slavery' was fundamental to the economy of:
(A) Renaissance Italy
(B) The Ancient Roman Empire
(C) 20th Century Germany
(D) Revolutionary France

**293.** The decline of 'feudalism' was hastened by the 'Black Death' because the resulting labor shortage:
(A) Allowed lords to impose even greater control.
(B) Increased the bargaining power of peasants.
(C) Stopped all trade and commerce permanently.
(D) Led to the immediate establishment of factories.

**294.** The ideas of the 'Renaissance' were in many ways a rejection of the worldview of:
(A) The preceding Middle Ages.
(B) Classical Greece and Rome.
(C) The 18th-century Enlightenment.
(D) The Industrial Revolution.

**295.** The 'Socialism' emerged as a major ideology in the wake of the:
(A) Fall of Rome
(B) Religion Reform Movement
(C) Industrial Revolution
(D) American Revolution

**296.** The French Revolution of 1789 ultimately led to the:
(A) Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.
(B) Permanent restoration of the Bourbon monarchy.
(C) Unification of Germany.
(D) Partition of France.

**297.** The 'Congress of Vienna' in 1815 was dominated by a spirit of:
(A) Revolutionary fervor
(B) Liberalism and nationalism
(C) Conservatism and monarchy restoration.
(D) Socialism and communism

**298.** The 'Eastern problem' in the 19th century concerned the diplomatic and military issues arising from the weakness of:
(A) The Austrian Empire
(B) The Ottoman Empire
(C) The Russian Empire
(D) The British Empire

**299.** The First World War began in 1914. Which major revolution took place while the war was still ongoing?
(A) American Revolution of 1776
(B) Chinese Revolution of 1911
(C) Russian Revolution of 1917
(D) Chinese Revolution of 1949

**300.** The rise of dictatorial powers like 'Fascism' and 'Nazism' represented a collapse of:
(A) Feudalism in Europe.
(B) Post-WWI democratic order.
(C) The power of the church.
(D) The system of mercantilism.

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(C) Mao Zedong
(D) Chiang Kai-shek

**277.** The end of the era of Napoleon Bonaparte was solidified by the decisions made at:
(A) The Treaty of Versailles
(B) The Yalta Conference
(C) The Congress of Vienna
(D) The Berlin Congress

**278.** The unification of Germany under Bismarck is often associated with the phrase:
(A) "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity"
(B) "Blood and Iron"
(C) "Peace, Land, and Bread"
(D) "I have a dream"

**279.** The 'Treaty of Versailles' placed the blame for the First World War primarily on:
(A) Serbia
(B) Russia
(C) Austria-Hungary
(D) Germany

**280.** A key policy of Mussolini's Fascist regime was the creation of a:
(A) Laissez-faire economy
(B) Multi-party democracy
(C) Corporate state
(D) Pacifist foreign policy

**281.** The establishment of the United Nations Organisation in 1945 was a direct result of the failure of the world to prevent the:
(A) First World War
(B) Second World War
(C) French Revolution
(D) Russian Revolution

**282.** The term 'Aristocracy' refers to a government controlled by a:
(A) Single monarch
(B) Small group of noble, privileged families
(C) Popularly elected assembly
(D) Religious leader

**283.** The 'Supremacy of the Church' was a dominant feature of medieval Europe, but it was challenged by the rise of:
(A) Powerful monarchies and the Renaissance
(B) The Roman Empire
(C) The feudal system
(D) Mercantilism

**284.** 'Colonialism' and 'Mercantilism' were related economic phenomena where:
(A) Colonies served mother country interests.
(B) Colonies were encouraged to industrialize.
(C) Free trade was practiced between all nations.
(D) The wealth of colonies was shared equally.

**285.** The Chinese Revolution of 1911 and the Russian Revolution of 1917 both resulted in the overthrow of:
(A) Long-standing monarchies
(B) Democratic republics
(C) Fascist dictatorships
(D) Colonial rulers

**286.** The Balkan peninsula was known as the "powder keg of Europe" before WWI because:
(A) It was the most industrialized region in the world.
(B) Nationalist aspirations and Great Power rivalries.
(C) It was a peaceful and stable region.
(D) It was the center of the Holy Roman Empire.

**287.** The Unification of Italy, known as the Risorgimento, was a movement to:
(A) Restore the Roman Empire.
(B) Create a single, independent Italian nation-state.
(C) Establish a socialist republic.
(D) Divide Italy into more city-states.

**288.** Which of the following is NOT a consequence of the First World War?
(A) The rise of new nations in Eastern Europe.
(B) The creation of the League of Nations.
(C) The beginning of the Cold War between the USA and USSR.
(D) Massive loss of life and economic disruption.

**289.** 'Nazism' can be considered a more extreme form of 'Fascism' due to its central emphasis on:
(A) Economic policy
(B) Nationalism
(C) Racial theory
(D) The corporate state

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relationship between popes and emperors was a defining conflict of the era's politics.

**9.** (C) The Indian subcontinent
Land tenure systems have historically been central to revenue collection and rural administration in various civilizations. In the southern Asian region, a specific class of intermediaries was established to oversee agricultural production and ensure the steady flow of taxes to the state. This hierarchical arrangement defined social relations and economic productivity for centuries, becoming a hallmark of regional administrative history.

**10.** (A) The lord and the vassal.
Medieval social organization was built upon a web of personal loyalties and reciprocal duties centered on land control. In this hierarchy, a powerful superior granted territory to a subordinate in exchange for military service and political allegiance. This foundational bond between the grantor and the recipient dictated the political, social, and economic realities of the period's decentralized governance.

**11.** (A) 2 only
The intellectual movement known as humanism redirected focus toward the potential of the individual and the rediscovery of classical knowledge. This period was marked by unprecedented innovation in the arts and sciences, challenging long-standing dogmas and encouraging empirical observation. It did not represent a decline but rather a vibrant expansion of creativity and a critical re-evaluation of established doctrines.

**12.** (B) National legislature.
In a representative system, the branch of government responsible for day-to-day administration must remain accountable to the body of elected officials. This ensures that executive power is exercised in accordance with the will of the people as expressed through their representatives. The requirement for ongoing support from the lawmaking body is a central feature that defines this democratic model.

**13.** (C) It prioritizes the private accumulation of wealth and individual profit.
Economic philosophies advocating for the redistribution of resources emphasize collective welfare over personal gain. Such systems typically seek to minimize social stratification by placing the means of production under communal or state control. This approach stands in direct contrast to models that encourage individuals to compete for personal enrichment and the private ownership of large-scale industrial or land assets.

**14.** (D) Extreme authoritarianism and totalitarian state control.
Dictatorial regimes in the early twentieth century were characterized by the total subordination of the individual to the state. These ideologies rejected pluralism and democratic processes, instead favoring a centralized authority that exercised absolute power over all aspects of public and private life. Through censorship and suppression of dissent, they maintained a singular, rigid command structure within their nations.

**15.** (A) 2, 1, 4, 3
Global political shifts in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries followed a transformative sequence of events. Movements for independence in the Americas preceded radical social upheaval in Europe. These were followed much later by the consolidation of central European states into a unified empire, which significantly altered the balance of power before the outbreak of a truly global industrial conflict.

**16.** (B) The Ottoman Empire
The strategic instability in Southeast Europe during the nineteenth century primarily concerned the internal decline of a major Mediterranean power. European states competed to influence the territory as the central authority weakened, fearing that a total collapse would disrupt the regional balance of power. This ongoing diplomatic crisis led to several major conflicts and shaped the modern map of Europe.

**17.** (B) The Church had ultimate authority over spiritual and temporal matters.
In the medieval worldview, religious institutions occupied the highest tier of the social hierarchy. This dominance meant that spiritual leaders

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# ANSWERS

1. (B) A systematic and written compilation of laws for a state or jurisdiction.
A formal body of statutes serves as a foundational pillar for organized governance and legal clarity. By consolidating diverse regulations into a single, accessible document, authorities ensure that rules are applied consistently across a territory. This transition from oral tradition to documented mandates provides a stable framework for resolving disputes and maintaining social order within a modern jurisdiction.

2. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
The expansion of the Roman state necessitated a highly sophisticated administrative structure to manage its diverse lands and populations. Central to this legal heritage was the principle that an individual is considered innocent until legal guilt is established. This concept was a transformative contribution to jurisprudence, influencing global legal standards and serving as a fundamental safeguard for individual rights.

3. (C) Debt obligations, warfare, and birth.
In the ancient Mediterranean world, involuntary servitude was a multifaceted institution deeply embedded in the social fabric. People often entered this status as prisoners of war, through inherited condition, or as a consequence of unresolved financial liabilities. Unlike later systems, it was not primarily defined by skin color or ethnicity but was instead a byproduct of military and economic circumstances.

4. (D) Aristocracy
Modern representative governance relies on the principles of popular sovereignty and equal participation in the political process. Systems that concentrate power within a hereditary or privileged elite are fundamentally at odds with these democratic ideals. While movements for social reform and intellectual rebirth have historically expanded civic engagement, traditional class-based rule limits authority to a small, non-elected segment of society.

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5. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Historical development is characterized by distinct socioeconomic and cultural frameworks that shaped global progress. Each era introduced specific organizational principles to manage trade, labor, and intellectual growth across various regions. These paradigms range from land-based hierarchies and economic nationalism to collective production models and cultural renewals, illustrating the diverse ways human societies have structured their political and economic lives.

6. (B) A small, privileged, and hereditary noble class.
Traditional power structures often relied on the concentration of authority within a specific social tier. This form of governance is defined by the rule of an elite group, usually distinguished by birthright, wealth, or specific social status. Members of this class typically hold significant political influence and land, passing their positions down through generations regardless of popular election.

7. (D) It caused a severe labor shortage, empowering peasants to demand better conditions.
The demographic collapse in the fourteenth century fundamentally altered the economic balance between landowners and the working class. With fewer laborers available to tend the land, the value of manual work increased significantly. This shift allowed survivors to negotiate for higher wages and greater personal freedom, ultimately undermining the rigid structures of the traditional feudal system across the continent.

8. (C) A is true but R is false.
During the Middle Ages, religious institutions exerted profound influence over both spiritual and temporal affairs, often guiding the actions of secular rulers. While the central European imperial entity was significant, it was deeply intertwined with religious authority rather than being a purely secular institution. The complex

**237.** The 'Jamidari' system most closely resembles which European concept in its function as a system of landholding and revenue appropriation?
(A) Parliamentary Democracy
(B) Mercantilism
(C) Socialism
(D) Feudalism

**238.** What is the fundamental principle of a 'Code of law'?
(A) That law should be arbitrary and flexible.
(B) That law should be written, public, and systematic.
(C) That law should be secret and known only to rulers.
(D) That there should be no laws at all.

**239.** The most significant difference between the American Revolution and the French Revolution was:
(A) The American Revolution involved a king.
(B) Social transformation was more radical in America.
(C) The French Revolution restructured society more radically.
(D) Enlightenment thought did not influence America.

**240.** The 'Industrial Revolution' refers to:
(A) A political uprising of industrial workers.
(B) Transition to machine-based economies.
(C) The French Revolution's impact on industry.
(D) A war fought over industrial resources.

**241.** 'Aristocracy' literally means 'rule by the best', but in practice it has come to mean:
(A) Rule by the people.
(B) Rule by a hereditary noble class.
(C) Rule by a single person.
(D) Rule by the military.

**242.** The slogan of the Russian Revolution of 1917, particularly of the Bolsheviks, was:
(A) "Peace, Land, and Bread"
(B) "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity"
(C) "No Taxation Without Representation"
(D) "A place in the sun"

**243.** The fall of Napoleon Bonaparte was a result of:
(A) His successful integration of all of Europe.
(B) A coalition determined to restore the old order.
(C) A democratic election in France.
(D) His decision to voluntarily abdicate.

**244.** The 'Young Turk Movement' was a force for:
(A) The breakup of the Ottoman Empire.
(B) The preservation of the Sultan's absolute power.
(C) Islamic fundamentalism.
(D) Nationalism and reform in the empire.

**245.** The 'Treaty of Versailles' contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War by:
(A) Creating a strong and stable Germany.
(B) Imposing a harsh and humiliating peace.
(C) Forming the alliance between Germany and Russia.
(D) Dissolving the French and British empires.

**246.** The establishment of the United Nations Organisation was primarily motivated by a desire to:
(A) Promote colonialism.
(B) Prevent another world war.
(C) Create a mercantilist world system.
(D) Enforce Fascism globally.

**247.** The 'Roman Empire' provides an early example of:
(A) A state with a codified legal system.
(B) A successful parliamentary democracy.
(C) A socialist economy.
(D) An industrial society.

**248.** The intellectual and cultural movement that emphasized reason, individualism, and humanism, and which challenged the 'Supremacy of the Church', was the:
(A) Feudal System
(B) Renaissance
(C) Mercantilist Revolution
(D) Industrial Revolution

**249.** Which of the following is an example of 'Colonialism' as an economic revolution?
(A) The establishment of factories in Manchester.
(B) European control of territories for exploitation.
(C) The unification of German states under

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often exerted significant influence over the political decisions of monarchs and the legal systems of the state. The belief was that religious law and authority should guide all human affairs, reflecting a comprehensive control over both life and society.

**18.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The sixteenth-century movement for religious change was driven by challenges to established ecclesiastical doctrines and the perceived corruption within institutional structures. This transformative period significantly predated twentieth-century political ideologies, which were shaped by vastly different historical and economic circumstances. While the earlier reform changed the religious landscape of Europe, it had no direct causal link to later dictatorial regimes.

**19.** (C) A complex political entity in central Europe with a loose confederation.
Throughout its long history, this central European institution functioned as a patchwork of diverse territories and principalities. Rather than being a unified, centralized state, it relied on a decentralized structure where local rulers maintained significant autonomy under a symbolic leader. This arrangement reflected the intricate political and social complexities of the region before the rise of modern nation-states.

**20.** (D) Martin Luther in Germany.
The significant religious shift in the sixteenth century was catalyzed by an individual's critique of ecclesiastical practices, specifically the sale of indulgences. By emphasizing the importance of scripture and personal faith, this movement led to a permanent division within Western Christianity. These actions challenged the monopoly of the institutional church and sparked widespread social and political changes across Europe.

**21.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Significant global transitions often arise from a combination of political, social, and economic upheavals. Major conflicts in the nineteenth century reflected deep-seated territorial disputes, while revolutionary movements championed representative governance. Similarly, the consolidation of national identities and the shift toward machine-based production fundamentally restructured modern society, illustrating the interconnected nature of historical progress and ideological change across different eras.

**22.** (B) Amount of gold and silver reserves.
Early modern economic theory held that a country's power was directly linked to the accumulation of precious metals. To achieve this, nations focused on maintaining a trade surplus by maximizing exports and limiting imports through protectionist policies. This philosophy viewed global wealth as a finite resource, driving intense competition among states to secure bullion and dominate international maritime trade.

**23.** (D) By providing raw materials and a captive market for finished goods.
Imperial expansion served as a vital instrument for nations seeking to dominate global trade and resource acquisition. By establishing control over distant territories, mother countries secured a steady supply of natural resources and agricultural products. Simultaneously, these regions were required to purchase manufactured products from the ruling state, ensuring a favorable balance of trade and continuous economic growth.

**24.** (A) Great Britain
The transition to machine-based manufacturing began in a nation characterized by abundant natural resources, such as coal and iron, and a stable political environment. This shift was fueled by innovations in textiles and steam power, which transformed the scale and speed of production. These advancements eventually spread globally, fundamentally altering social structures, urbanization patterns, and the international economic landscape.

**25.** (C) Great Britain
The conflict in North America during the late eighteenth century was driven by colonial resistance to overseas administrative and fiscal policies. Settlers increasingly challenged the authority of the distant monarchy and parliament, particularly regarding legislation enacted without their direct representation. This struggle eventually transitioned from a demand for civil rights into a full-scale movement for complete political independence and sovereignty.

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total war that spanned several continents and years.

**44.** (D) The success of the United Nations in preventing conflict.
The path to the second global war was paved by the failure of international systems to maintain peace and the aggressive expansionism of specific states. Resentment from previous peace treaties and the inability of diplomatic bodies to enforce rules allowed tensions to escalate. No successful global organization existed at the time that was capable of effectively preventing such a massive and widespread conflict.

**45.** (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Global political shifts in the early twentieth century were often led by influential figures championing diverse ideologies. Movements ranging from radical social restructuring and ethnic-based nationalism to the establishment of republics fundamentally altered the governing structures of major nations. These leaders and their associated beliefs drove revolutions and the rise of authoritarian states, shaping the geopolitical landscape for several decades.

**46.** (B) Division of Europe and the beginning of the Cold War.
The conclusion of the second global conflict left a transformed political landscape characterized by the emergence of two dominant powers with opposing ideologies. This rivalry led to the fragmentation of the continent into distinct spheres of influence, often separated by a symbolic barrier. This period of geopolitical tension shaped international relations and domestic policies for the latter half of the century.

**47.** (B) Creating a single world government with total legislative authority.
Following the global devastation of the 1940s, the international community sought a centralized platform to manage world affairs. This entity was envisioned as a unifying body that could exert collective authority over sovereign nations to prevent future conflicts. By establishing a supreme legislative framework, the organization aimed to harmonize global laws and ensure total cooperation among all member states.

**48.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The shift toward machine-based manufacturing caused a massive population movement into growing industrial centers, creating a new urban social tier. However, this transition was fraught with significant difficulties, as many individuals faced dangerous environments and very low compensation. These harsh realities led to widespread social unrest and the emergence of movements demanding better treatment and the legal protection of laborers.

**49.** (B) Feudalism
Medieval social organization was defined by a decentralized political structure based on land tenure. In this system, individuals held territory from a superior in exchange for military assistance and loyalty. This arrangement created a hierarchical network of mutual obligations that dictated the economic, legal, and social life of the era, forming the primary structure of governance across the European continent.

**50.** (A) Renaissance
The transition toward modernity was marked by an intellectual and cultural movement that drew inspiration from the achievements of classical antiquity. This period emphasized the potential of the individual and fostered significant advancements in the arts, literature, and various scientific fields. By re-evaluating traditional dogmas through the lens of humanism, it fundamentally reshaped the philosophical foundation of European society.

**51.** (D) French Revolution of 1789 - Unification of Germany
Major political transformations often have distinct timelines and geographical focuses that do not directly overlap. While the late eighteenth-century uprising in Paris focused on dismantling the monarchy and social inequality, the consolidation of central European states into a single empire occurred nearly a century later. These events represent different historical milestones with unique causes, leaders, and long-term geopolitical outcomes.

**52.** (B) Russia and the Ottoman Empire
Diplomatic efforts in the late nineteenth century sought to resolve the territorial instability following a major conflict in the Balkans. A

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**35.** (B) The remaining Ottoman territories in Europe.
In the years preceding the first global war, emerging nations in the southeastern part of the continent fought to expand their borders at the expense of a retreating imperial power. These conflicts were fueled by intense nationalism and a desire to control strategic lands previously held by an older state. The resulting instability intensified rivalries between the continent's major powers.

**36.** (B) Otto von Bismarck
The consolidation of a powerful central European state was orchestrated by a pragmatic statesman who utilized a combination of strategic diplomacy and military force. He successfully unified various independent territories under the leadership of a dominant northern kingdom. His policies, often described as realistic and power-based, fundamentally reshaped the continent's geopolitical balance during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

**37.** (D) The Austrian Empire
The movement to unite the various states of the southern peninsula required the removal of foreign influence from the northern regions. A powerful central European state held significant territory and political control over these areas, serving as a major obstacle to national sovereignty. Through a series of diplomatic maneuvers and military campaigns, activists successfully challenged this foreign dominance to create a unified state.

**38.** (A) The complex system of military alliances and nationalism.
The outbreak of the first truly global industrial conflict was rooted in deep-seated tensions and mutual suspicions among major powers. A rigid network of mutual defense agreements meant that a localized crisis could rapidly escalate into a general war. Additionally, intense national pride and competition for imperial territory further destabilized international relations, creating an environment where conflict became almost inevitable.

**39.** (C) Germany
The settlement following the conclusion of the first global war imposed significant territorial losses and financial burdens on the primary defeated nation. This agreement included clauses that forced the country to accept total responsibility for the conflict and restricted its military capacity. These punitive measures fostered deep-seated resentment and economic instability, which influenced the political landscape in the following decades.

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**40.** (B) 1 and 3 only
The conclusion of the first global industrial conflict fundamentally redrew the world map by ending several traditional imperial systems. In response to the unprecedented devastation, international leaders created a collective body intended to maintain peace through diplomacy. While these changes were profound, the conflict did not lead to the consolidation of central European states, which had already occurred years earlier.

**41.** (C) The promotion of class conflict and international proletarian revolution
Dictatorial regimes in the early twentieth century often emphasized national unity and the absolute authority of the state over individual rights. These ideologies typically suppressed political opposition and used mass mobilization to consolidate power. Unlike movements focused on global worker solidarity, they rejected the idea of social division, instead demanding total loyalty to the nation and its singular leader.

**42.** (B) Focus on racial ideology.
While many dictatorial regimes shared characteristics like the rejection of democracy and the use of propaganda, one specific movement in central Europe was uniquely defined by its belief in biological hierarchy. This ideology placed notions of ethnic purity and the superiority of a specific group at the core of state policy. These beliefs drove aggressive expansionism and systematic persecution within its borders.

**43.** (C) The German invasion of Poland.
The outbreak of the second truly global conflict was precipitated by a specific military action in late 1939. This aggressive move into a neighboring territory forced major European powers to honor their mutual defense commitments. The event marked the end of the policy of avoiding conflict through concessions and initiated a period of

**26.** (B) Statement 1 and 3 only
The upheaval in late eighteenth-century France was fueled by systemic financial problems and a rigid social hierarchy that favored the elite. Revolutionary participants advocated for a society based on the rights of man and the elimination of hereditary privileges. Although the movement introduced transformative civic ideals, it was followed by a period of significant political instability and the eventual rise of an empire.

**27.** (D) The end of the Qing Dynasty and the founding of the Republic of China.
The political transformation in the early twentieth century marked the collapse of an imperial system that had lasted for millennia. This movement sought to modernize the nation by replacing autocratic rule with a representative form of government. The transition led to the establishment of a new sovereign entity, though it faced ongoing challenges from internal fragmentation and foreign intervention.

**28.** (B) The Romanovs
The radical political shift in the early twentieth century resulted in the collapse of a long-standing autocratic monarchy. Overburdened by wartime losses and internal social unrest, the ruling family was removed from power, ending centuries of imperial rule. This event paved the way for a series of transitional governments before a revolutionary group established the world's first socialist state.

**29.** (C) Resulted in a communist government.
While the earlier movement focused on ending imperial rule and establishing a republic, the later conflict concluded with a fundamental restructuring of society based on Marxist principles. This mid-twentieth-century transformation led to the centralized control of the economy and the redistribution of land. The outcome significantly altered the global geopolitical landscape during the subsequent decades of the twentieth century.

**30.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The political vacuum and social chaos following a major revolution allowed a capable military leader to consolidate power and establish himself as a supreme ruler. Although he provided stability and implemented legal reforms, his regime did not aim to restore the previous monarchical line. Instead, he created a new imperial structure that dominated much of the continent for years.

**31.** (A) The Battle of Waterloo
The final collapse of the French imperial era occurred during a decisive engagement in the early nineteenth century. A coalition of European powers successfully confronted and defeated the forces of the former emperor, ending his brief return to power. This defeat led to his permanent exile and the convening of a major diplomatic summit to restore stability to the continent.

**32.** (B) Establish a balance of power and restore pre-revolutionary monarchies.
Following years of continental warfare, European leaders gathered to redesign the political map and ensure long-term stability. Their primary goal was to prevent any single nation from dominating others while suppressing the radical ideologies that had sparked recent upheavals. By restoring traditional ruling houses and creating a system of mutual cooperation, they sought to maintain a conservative order.

**33.** (B) The Crimean War (1854-1856)
The complex diplomatic and military situation regarding the decline of a major Mediterranean power led to a significant mid-nineteenth-century conflict. Western powers intervened to prevent a rival northern empire from expanding its influence over strategic territories. This struggle reflected the ongoing tension between Great Powers as they sought to manage the vacuum left by the weakening of a traditional state.

**34.** (D) To modernize the empire by establishing a constitutional government.
In the early twentieth century, a group of reform-minded individuals sought to revitalize their declining state by introducing Western-style political structures. They aimed to limit the absolute power of the monarch and implement a formal constitution to ensure civic rights and professional administration. Their efforts were driven by a desire to strengthen the nation against both internal decay and external pressure.

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powerful northern empire had secured significant gains against a declining Mediterranean state, alarming other European powers. The subsequent summit aimed to revise the peace terms to prevent a shift in the balance of power and curb the expansion of northern influence.

**53.** (A) 1, 2, 3
The rise of authoritarian regimes in the early twentieth century followed a specific chronological path. The first major fascist state was established in southern Europe through a symbolic show of force. This was followed a decade later by the rise of a similar dictatorial power in central Europe, eventually leading to a massive global conflict that began in late 1939.

**54.** (D) The Russian Empire
A significant mid-nineteenth-century conflict arose from the desire of a major northern power to expand its influence into the territory of a weakening Mediterranean state. Fearing a disruption in the balance of power, a coalition of Western nations intervened to block this expansion. The struggle highlight the complex diplomatic tensions regarding control over strategic maritime routes and the future of declining empires.

**55.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Modern political thought distinguishes between systems based on popular representation and those based on hereditary privilege. Representative models champion the distribution of power among different branches and the participation of citizens. In contrast, traditional elitist structures rely on the dominance of a small, noble class, which stands in direct opposition to contemporary democratic ideals of equality and universal suffrage.

**56.** (B) Mercantilism
Early modern economic policies focused on maximizing national wealth through a favorable balance of trade and the accumulation of precious metals. The acquisition of overseas territories served this goal by providing exclusive access to natural resources and establishing new markets for manufactured goods. This practice ensured that the ruling state could dominate global commerce while preventing rival nations from accessing key resources.

**57.** (B) 1 and 2 only
The rise of a prominent military leader occurred during the later phases of a major social upheaval, leading to his consolidation of power. He introduced a comprehensive legal system that remains influential today and expanded his influence across much of the continent. However, his ultimate military ambitions were thwarted by a disastrous invasion of a northern power, leading to his downfall.

**58.** (A) Protestantism
The religious transformation of the sixteenth century challenged the authority of the existing institutional church, leading to the creation of several new denominations. These groups emphasized the importance of individual scripture reading and the belief in salvation through faith. This movement fundamentally altered the religious and political landscape of the West, sparking decades of conflict and long-term cultural change.

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**59.** (C) The Renaissance and the Religion Reform Movement
The dominance of institutional religious authority began to wane as new intellectual and social movements emerged. An emphasis on humanism and classical learning encouraged critical thinking and scientific inquiry, while challenges to ecclesiastical doctrines led to significant structural divisions within the faith. Together, these developments shifted the focus toward individual agency and the power of secular states, undermining traditional spiritual hegemony.

**60.** (C) French Revolution of 1789 AD
Significant political upheavals have defined different eras of human history. While several major transformations occurred during the nineteen-hundreds, leading to the establishment of republics or socialist states, one pivotal uprising took place much earlier. This late eighteenth-century event fundamentally challenged the principles of absolute monarchy and introduced modern concepts of citizenship and equality, setting a precedent for future global movements.

**61.** (B) The promotion of liberal democracy.
Dictatorial regimes in the early twentieth century were built upon the total suppression of political

of recent peace treaties and struggling with inflation, sought strong leaders who promised order and national pride. Additionally, the threat of radical socialist revolutions drove conservative elites and middle-class voters to support these far-right dictatorial powers.

**79.** (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
Early modern economic policies were characterized by heavy government intervention and the goal of achieving national self-sufficiency through trade surpluses. To facilitate this, nations established overseas territories to secure natural resources and exclusive markets for their own manufactured goods. This practice of dominating distant regions was a practical application of the theory that national power depended on a controlled global economy.

**80.** (D) Convening of the Congress of Vienna.
The removal of the French imperial leader from power created a significant political vacuum across the continent. To address this, major European powers organized a major diplomatic summit to restore stability and redesign national boundaries. This meeting aimed to prevent future conflicts by creating a system of mutual cooperation among conservative monarchies and suppressing the radical ideologies that had recently flourished.

**81.** (B) The legal property of another person, with no personal rights.
In the social structure of the ancient Roman world, certain individuals held a status that deprived them of all legal autonomy. They were considered commodities that could be bought, sold, and used at the discretion of their masters. This condition was not limited to a specific ethnic group and involved a total absence of civic participation, making them mere instruments of labor.

**82.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The intellectual transition in early modern Europe redirected attention toward human reason and the value of life on earth. This shift away from exclusively divine concerns was driven by a new philosophical framework that celebrated human potential and the study of classical wisdom. By prioritizing secular education and individual achievement, this movement fundamentally redefined the role of humanity in the world.

**83.** (C) The Second World War
The establishment of a major international body in 1945 was a direct response to the unprecedented scale of destruction seen in recent years. World leaders recognized that the existing systems had failed to maintain peace, leading to a catastrophic global conflict. The new organization was designed to foster international cooperation, protect human rights, and prevent the recurrence of such a devastating and widespread war.

**84.** (A) Russia
The consolidation of a unified central European state was achieved through a series of calculated diplomatic maneuvers and brief, decisive conflicts. A pragmatic statesman orchestrated wars against neighboring powers to expand territory and assert dominance over other regional states. By systematically defeating various rivals on the continent, he eventually secured the leadership necessary to proclaim a single, powerful empire for the unified nation.

**85.** (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Modern history is punctuated by transformative political events that shifted global power and governance. From the declaration of independence in the Americas and the radical social upheaval in France to the diplomatic summits that reshaped the map of Europe, these milestones defined different eras. Each event, including the outbreak of significant mid-nineteenth-century conflicts, contributed to the ongoing evolution of national identities.

**86.** (B) The subordination of the individual to the state.
A core element of certain early twentieth-century authoritarian ideologies was the belief that the needs of the nation outweighed those of the individual. In this system, all aspects of life were expected to serve the collective power of the state under a singular leader. Personal freedoms were suppressed in favor of national unity, military strength, and the total obedience of all citizens.

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based on Marxist ideology. This conflict eventually concluded with the establishment of a socialist state on the mainland.

**70.** (C) Legitimacy and Conservatism
In the early nineteenth century, European leaders sought to restore stability following years of revolutionary upheaval. Their primary objective was to reinforce traditional power structures by returning hereditary monarchs to their thrones and suppressing radical social change. This focus on maintaining an established order and a balance of power defined the continent's diplomatic landscape for the subsequent several decades.

**71.** (A) Nazism - Adolf Hitler
Radical political ideologies are often synonymous with the leaders who championed them and brought them to the forefront of national policy. In the early twentieth century, a specific movement based on racial hierarchy and extreme nationalism was led by a singular figure who consolidated total power in central Europe. His leadership defined the state's aggressive and expansionist path during that era.

**72.** (B) Extreme social and economic inequality of the Old Regime.
The radical social upheaval in late eighteenth-century France was primarily driven by the systemic failures of a rigid three-tier social structure. A vast majority of the population faced heavy financial burdens and food shortages while a tiny elite enjoyed immense wealth and exemption from taxes. This deep-seated disparity fueled widespread resentment, eventually leading to a violent challenge against the monarchical system.

**73.** (B) The core powers of Western and Central Europe
Strategic and diplomatic tensions in the nineteenth century often focused on territories located on the fringes of the continent's major power centers. These regions were controlled by a declining empire whose weakening authority created a vacuum. Western and central nations competed to influence these areas to protect their own interests, fearing that any instability would disrupt the broader continental balance.

**74.** (C) 1 and 3 only
Certain governance systems are fundamentally built upon the idea that individuals occupy different levels of status and power. Elitist structures grant authority based on hereditary lineage, while certain radical ideologies of the twentieth century promoted an inherent hierarchy based on ethnic or biological characteristics. Both models reject the modern democratic principle that all citizens should hold equal rights and political influence.

**75.** (A) 2, 4, 3, 1
Global revolutionary movements have fundamentally reshaped the political landscape across different centuries. The drive for independence in North America occurred first, followed by a radical upheaval in Europe. Later, in the early twentieth century, a massive social restructuring took place in a large northern state, eventually followed by a similar ideological transformation in a major East Asian nation.

**76.** (B) Vladimir Lenin
The radical social and political transformation of a large northern empire in the early twentieth century was spearheaded by a committed ideological leader. He advocated for the overthrow of the provisional government and the establishment of a state governed by the working class. His leadership during the final phase of the revolution led to the creation of the world's first socialist nation.

**77.** (D) A profound sense of disillusionment and redrawing European maps.
The aftermath of the first global industrial war was marked by significant psychological and physical changes. Survivors faced a deep sense of despair and a questioning of traditional values following the immense loss of life. Simultaneously, the collapse of several multi-ethnic empires led to the creation of numerous new sovereign nations, fundamentally altering the political boundaries of the entire continent.

**78.** (A) Economic instability, national humiliation, and fear of communism.
Authoritarian movements gained significant traction in the early twentieth century by exploiting widespread social and financial crises. Many citizens, feeling betrayed by the terms

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opposition and the glorification of a singular leader. They rejected the principles of individual rights and multi-party systems, instead favoring a centralized authority that controlled the economy and society. Through the use of secret police and aggressive nationalism, these states demanded absolute conformity from all citizens.

**62.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The settlement following the first global conflict created an environment of economic hardship and national humiliation for the primary defeated state. Harsh territorial losses and massive financial penalties provided fertile ground for radical leaders to rise by promising a restoration of national pride. These grievances directly contributed to the instability that eventually precipitated the outbreak of the second global war.

**63.** (D) A massive bubonic plague pandemic in the 14th century.
In the middle of the fourteenth century, a catastrophic health crisis swept across several continents, significantly reducing the human population. This event caused widespread social and economic disruption, leading to a severe labor shortage and shifts in the power balance between different social classes. The profound impact of this pandemic accelerated the decline of traditional medieval structures and land-based obligations.

**64.** (D) The emergence of a new industrial working class and new social structures.
The transition toward machine-based manufacturing fundamentally transformed the organization of human life. It led to rapid urbanization as people moved to cities for employment, resulting in the growth of a new social tier defined by factory labor. These changes altered family dynamics, work environments, and political movements, as the new class sought representation and improved living conditions in industrial centers.

**65.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Different political and social systems characterize the evolution of human governance and economic organization. Some systems rely on popular representation and civic rights, while others empower a small hereditary elite. Similarly, radical ideologies ranging from collective ownership to those based on ethnic hierarchy have shaped national policies. Each of these models presents a unique approach to managing power and resources.

**66.** (B) Create a single political entity from the various states on the Italian peninsula.
Throughout much of history, the southern peninsula was a fragmented collection of independent territories and foreign-controlled regions. The movement for national consolidation sought to overcome these divisions and establish a sovereign, unified nation-state. This process involved a combination of diplomatic strategy, grassroots revolutionary activity, and military campaigns to achieve a common political identity for the various local populations.

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**67.** (D) The goal of acquiring living space in Eastern Europe.
Aggressive expansionist policies in the mid-twentieth century were driven by a desire to secure vast territories for the growth of a specific ethnic population. This ideology justified the conquest and colonization of lands to the east, viewing them as necessary for national self-sufficiency and survival. This quest for territorial dominance led to widespread conflict and the displacement of numerous existing populations.

**68.** (A) Enlightenment ideas about natural rights and self-governance.
The movement for independence in North America was deeply rooted in philosophical shifts that questioned traditional authority. Thinkers of the era emphasized the importance of individual liberty, the consent of the governed, and the inherent rights of all people. These concepts provided the intellectual framework for settlers to challenge colonial rule and establish a new system based on representative democracy.

**69.** (B) The Nationalists (Kuomintang) and the Communists.
After the fall of the imperial system, a prolonged internal struggle occurred between two primary political groups for control of the nation. One faction sought to establish a republic based on traditional nationalistic principles, while the other advocated for a radical social transformation

**87.** (B) Land ownership and revenue
Certain socioeconomic structures were established to facilitate the management of agricultural land and the collection of taxes for the state. This system relied on a class of intermediaries who held rights over specific territories and the labor of the people living there. By acting as revenue collectors and local administrators, these individuals maintained a hierarchical control over the rural economy and society.

**88.** (D) Extreme and central focus on race
While many dictatorial regimes shared authoritarian traits, one specific movement in central Europe was uniquely defined by its commitment to biological hierarchy. This ideology placed the preservation and expansion of a specific ethnic group at the core of all national policy. These beliefs justified the systematic exclusion and persecution of others, distinguishing it from other contemporary forms of extreme nationalism and control.

**89.** (B) Widespread discontent due to military defeats and autocracy.
The collapse of the imperial system in a large northern state was fueled by the combination of an inflexible autocratic government and devastating losses in a global conflict. Severe food shortages and economic collapse led to mass protests and military mutinies, as the population lost faith in the traditional leadership. This internal crisis eventually paved the way for radical groups to seize control.

**90.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Diplomatic instability in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was largely caused by the internal decline of a major Mediterranean power. European states feared that a sudden collapse would disrupt the regional balance, leading to several significant wars and diplomatic summits. These conflicts reflected the ongoing struggle among Great Powers to manage territorial changes and the rise of nationalism in that region.

**91.** (B) Arbitrary rule to a system of established rules.
The development of formal legal statutes represents a fundamental shift in how justice is administered within a society. Instead of relying on the unpredictable whims of a ruler, governance becomes based on a set of consistent, written, and public regulations. This transition ensures that all individuals are subject to the same standards, providing a predictable framework for resolving social and legal disputes.

**92.** (C) The Napoleonic Wars
The traditional, decentralized imperial structure that had existed in central Europe for centuries was effectively dissolved during a period of massive continental conflict. The expansion of a new imperial power and the subsequent reorganization of German-speaking territories made the old system obsolete. This led to a formal end of the institution as local rulers were incorporated into new political arrangements shaped by recent warfare.

**93.** (C) The Ottoman Empire
In the early twentieth century, a group of reformists sought to modernize their declining state by challenging the absolute power of the monarch. They advocated for the restoration of a constitution and the implementation of secular, nationalistic reforms to strengthen the nation against foreign influence. Their movement was a significant step toward the eventual transformation of the empire into a modern nation-state.

**94.** (B) Abdication of the last Qing emperor.
The political upheaval in the early twentieth century successfully brought an end to an imperial system that had endured for over two thousand years. This movement led to the formal step down of the final monarch, effectively terminating the traditional dynastic cycle. This transition was a pivotal moment that cleared the way for the establishment of a republic and the pursuit of modernization.

**95.** (B) An estate of land granted by a lord to a vassal.
Medieval social and economic life was organized around the distribution of land in exchange for specific services. In this hierarchical system, a superior would provide a portion of territory to a subordinate as a source of income and status. In return, the recipient was obligated to provide military support and political loyalty, forming the fundamental building block of the period's governance.

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**96.** (B) The creation of the United Nations Organisation.
The aftermath of the second truly global conflict was marked by a commitment to prevent similar future catastrophes through international cooperation. World leaders established a permanent diplomatic body designed to resolve disputes peacefully and protect global security. This new institution represented a significant shift away from traditional power politics and toward a collective approach to maintaining world order and human rights.

**97.** (B) The Roman Empire
In certain ancient civilizations, the labor force was heavily dependent on individuals who were legally categorized as property rather than citizens. This system of involuntary servitude supported large-scale agriculture, urban construction, and domestic life, becoming deeply integrated into the state's economic and social structures. The widespread use of this institution shaped the power dynamics and legal developments of the entire Mediterranean region.

**98.** (C) French Revolution
The rise of a prominent military figure was a direct consequence of the political instability and social radicalization following a major eighteenth-century upheaval. This person utilized his successes on the battlefield to consolidate power at home, eventually transitioning from a republican leader to an imperial ruler. His reign spread revolutionary ideals across the continent through a combination of legal reform and extensive warfare.

**99.** (C) Mercantilism
Early modern economic policies were centered on the belief that a nation's strength depended on maintaining a trade surplus and accumulating bullion. This system encouraged governments to intervene in the economy by supporting domestic industries and establishing colonies to secure raw materials and exclusive markets. By limiting foreign competition through tariffs and regulations, states sought to maximize their wealth relative to rival powers.

**100.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The consolidation of various independent territories into a unified central European empire fundamentally shifted the geopolitical balance on the continent. Contrary to being a weak entity, this new state emerged as a formidable industrial and military power with a highly organized administrative system. Its creation ended decades of regional fragmentation and established a dominant force that influenced international relations for many years.

**101.** (A) 3, 1, 4, 2
Significant eras of human history are defined by pivotal transitions and global crises. A catastrophic mid-fourteenth-century pandemic was followed by a vibrant period of intellectual and artistic rebirth. Later, a radical eighteenth-century social upheaval challenged traditional monarchies, setting the stage for the first truly global industrial conflict in the early twentieth century. This timeline illustrates the ongoing evolution of human society.

**102.** (C) Meritocracy
Governance based on hereditary privilege stands in direct contrast to systems where individuals advance based on their own skills and accomplishments. While traditional elite structures reserve power and status for those born into specific families, modern ideals emphasize that authority should be earned through talent and hard work. This shift represents a fundamental change in how societies define leadership and social mobility.

**103.** (B) Fundamentally changed society and technology.
The transition to machine-based production is described as a major turning point because it completely restructured the way humans lived and worked. This shift led to rapid urbanization, the growth of new social classes, and unprecedented advancements in transportation and communication. The scale of these changes was so profound that it permanently altered the economic and social foundations of the modern world.

**104.** (C) It established the United Nations Organisation.
The settlement following the first global conflict focused on territorial changes and financial reparations rather than the creation of the current global diplomatic body. While it did establish an

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earlier international organization intended to maintain peace, that entity eventually proved unable to prevent subsequent warfare. The current global organization was formed much later, following the end of another massive and worldwide struggle.

**105.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Transformative political movements have fundamentally redefined national identities and governance across different eras. From achieving independence from colonial rule and ending millennia-old imperial systems to establishing various forms of socialist or communist states, these revolutions have shaped the modern world. Each event represents a significant shift in the relationship between the people and their government, resulting in diverse political outcomes.

**106.** (C) Mein Kampf (My Struggle)
The ideological foundations of a specific twentieth-century dictatorial movement were detailed in a personal manifesto written by its primary leader. This text outlined beliefs in biological hierarchy, the necessity of territorial expansion, and the suppression of perceived political enemies. By centralizing these ideas within a single work, the author provided a roadmap for his eventual consolidation of power and state policy.

**107.** (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Following years of continental warfare, European leaders met to restore stability by suppressing the radical ideals that had recently flourished. They sought to reinforce traditional power structures and maintain a balance of power among major states. While this system managed to prevent a general European war for several decades, it could not stop the eventual outbreak of significant regional and global conflicts.

**108.** (B) The church held significant political and social power.
During the Middle Ages, religious institutions occupied a central position in the social and political hierarchy. This dominance meant that spiritual leaders frequently influenced the laws of the land and the decisions of secular rulers. The reach of this authority extended into nearly every aspect of daily life, reflecting a society where faith and institutional power were deeply intertwined.

**109.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Authoritarian regimes in the early twentieth century were characterized by a total rejection of democratic principles and the glorification of military power. These ideologies typically suppressed individual rights in favor of state control and used propaganda to maintain a unified national identity. In some cases, these systems also prioritized notions of ethnic or biological hierarchy as a central component of government policy.

**110.** (C) A Totalitarian State
A form of government that seeks to exercise absolute control over all aspects of human existence is defined by its rejection of pluralism and personal autonomy. Such a state uses extensive surveillance, state-run media, and the suppression of dissent to ensure that every individual conforms to the official ideology. In this system, there is no separation between the private lives of citizens and the state's power.

**111.** (C) Increased tensions and rivalries between Great Powers.
Territorial conflicts in the southeastern part of the continent served as a significant precursor to the first global war. As emerging nations fought to gain land from a declining imperial power, major European states became increasingly involved in these local disputes to protect their own interests. These regional struggles intensified existing rivalries, making the entire continent more prone to a large-scale conflict.

**112.** (A) Feudalism
Before the rise of modern industrial economies, social and economic life was primarily organized around a land-based hierarchy. In this system, power was decentralized among a class of noble landowners, while production was managed through localized labor and regulated by specialized artisan groups. This structure emphasized mutual obligations and traditional status rather than the fluid competition and machine production seen in later eras.

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a specific sequence during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A mid-century war over influence was followed by a major diplomatic summit to redraw boundaries. Later, a domestic reform movement sought to modernize the state, which was quickly followed by a series of regional wars in the southeastern part of the continent.

**131.** (C) The French Revolution
A pivotal moment in late eighteenth-century history occurred when a crowd attacked a state prison, symbolizing a challenge to absolute monarchical authority. This event catalyzed a broader social and political upheaval that sought to dismantle traditional class privileges and establish a system based on equal rights. It remains a powerful symbol of the people's power to demand radical change and national sovereignty.

**132.** (C) The Bolsheviks
The final stage of the radical political transformation in a large northern empire occurred when a specific revolutionary group seized control of the central government. This group advocated for an immediate end to wartime involvement and the transfer of power to the working class. Their success led to the complete restructuring of society and the establishment of the world's first enduring socialist state.

**133.** (D) Both A and R are false.
Imperial expansion was fundamentally an unequal system designed to prioritize the economic and political interests of the ruling power. Territories were established to secure natural resources and create captive markets rather than to benefit the local populations. These regions were typically denied self-governance and faced systematic exploitation of their wealth and labor, reflecting a structure of dominance rather than equal partnership.

**134.** (D) British Empire
The conclusion of the first global industrial war resulted in the collapse of several traditional, multi-ethnic imperial systems. These states were unable to survive the combination of military defeat and internal nationalist movements. However, one major global power, despite facing significant challenges and social shifts, managed to maintain its overseas territories and institutional structure for several more decades following the end of the conflict.

**135.** (C) The Blackshirts
The rise of an authoritarian regime in southern Europe was supported by organized groups of paramilitary followers who used violence to suppress political opposition. These individuals were known for their distinctive attire and were instrumental in the movement's symbolic show of force that eventually led to the leader's consolidation of power. Their activities were central to creating an environment of intimidation and state control.

**136.** (C) The expansionist ambitions of Hitler's Germany.
In the years preceding the second truly global conflict, certain nations followed a policy of making concessions to an aggressive state in the hope of avoiding war. This approach failed to satisfy the ambitions of the expansionist power, which continued to demand and seize territory in central Europe. The eventual realization that this policy was ineffective led to a total shift toward military confrontation.

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**137.** (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
The catastrophic pandemic of the mid-fourteenth century significantly reduced the population, leading to profound social and economic shifts. This massive demographic collapse fundamentally challenged existing land-based obligations as the resulting labor shortage increased the value of manual work. These changes allowed common people to negotiate for better conditions, eventually contributing to the decline of traditional medieval hierarchies and decentralized political structures.

**138.** (C) Franco-Prussian War
The final stage of consolidating a unified central European empire was achieved after a decisive military victory against a major western neighbor. This conflict allowed the northern kingdom to unite the remaining independent states under its leadership and establish a dominant new power on the continent. The war also resulted in significant territorial changes and reshaped

situation created a persistent diplomatic problem as Great Powers competed to influence the empire's future.

**122.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Diverse political and economic theories have provided the framework for human organization throughout history. Some systems prioritize collective welfare and shared ownership, while others focus on maximizing national wealth through controlled trade and precious metal reserves. Similarly, models range from decentralized land-based hierarchies and personal loyalty to modern authoritarian regimes based on extreme nationalism and absolute state control over all citizens.

**123.** (D) Otto von Bismarck
The movement for national consolidation in the southern peninsula involved a variety of influential figures, including strategic diplomats, revolutionary thinkers, and military leaders. These individuals worked through different means to overcome internal divisions and foreign influence. While a similar process of unification was occurring in central Europe under a different statesman, his actions were separate from the specific struggle to unite these southern states.

**124.** (B) Has broad knowledge in many fields.
During the period of intellectual and cultural rebirth, the ideal individual was someone who cultivated expertise across a wide variety of disciplines. This concept celebrated versatility and the pursuit of excellence in the arts, sciences, and humanities simultaneously. Such individuals reflected the era's focus on human potential and the belief that a well-rounded education was essential for a meaningful and productive life.

**125.** (D) The League of Nations
In 1945, world leaders established a new international body intended to succeed where a previous attempt at global cooperation had failed. The earlier organization proved unable to prevent major aggression or the outbreak of a second worldwide conflict. The new institution was designed with greater authority and broader participation to more effectively maintain peace, security, and human rights on a global scale.

**126.** (B) 1 and 2 only
The path toward the second truly global conflict was driven by the aggressive expansionism of a specific state and the failure of international systems to effectively stop this aggression. While some powers attempted to avoid war through concessions, this lack of resolve allowed tensions to escalate. These factors, rather than a period of stability or prosperity, created the conditions for a widespread and catastrophic war.

**127.** (B) Fusion of executive and legislative powers.
In certain democratic systems, the branch of government that manages daily administration is drawn directly from and is accountable to the lawmaking body. This arrangement ensures a close link between policy implementation and the elected representatives of the people. This structure contrasts with other models where the administrative and lawmaking branches are strictly separate, emphasizing ongoing cooperation between these two central powers.

**128.** (B) Conditions created by the Industrial Revolution.
The transition to machine-based production led to significant social and economic challenges, including poor working conditions and widespread inequality. In response, new ideologies emerged that advocated for the collective ownership of resources to ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth. These movements sought to address the difficulties faced by the growing urban working class during a period of rapid and unregulated change.

**129.** (C) Limit Russian gains against the Ottoman Empire.
Diplomatic efforts at a late nineteenth-century summit were primarily focused on revising the terms of a recent peace treaty to protect the continental balance of power. Western nations were concerned that a northern empire's territorial gains would grant it too much influence over a declining Mediterranean state. By limiting these gains, the other Great Powers sought to prevent any single nation from dominating strategic regional territories.

**130.** (B) 2, 1, 4, 3
Diplomatic and military events concerning the decline of a major Mediterranean power followed

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reshaped the way people understood history, art, and the role of the individual in society.

**165.** (B) The French Revolution
During a specific radical phase of a major eighteenth-century social upheaval, a period of extreme political violence occurred. This era was characterized by the systematic execution of individuals perceived as enemies of the state, often without a fair trial. It reflected the intense internal conflict and instability that can arise when traditional power structures are rapidly dismantled and replaced by radical new ideals.

**166.** (B) Russian (1917) and Chinese (1949)
Two major political transformations in the twentieth century resulted in the establishment of states based on Marxist principles. The earlier movement in a large northern nation led to the creation of the first socialist state, while a later conflict in a major East Asian country ended with a similar social restructuring. Both events significantly influenced global politics and resulted in the centralized control of national economies.

**167.** (A) 1, 3, 4, 2
The rise of prominent leaders and theirassociated ideologies followed a clear chronological path from the late eighteenth century through the early twentieth century. After an imperial ruler consolidated power following a major social upheaval, subsequent revolutionary and authoritarian leaders emerged during periods of global instability. Each of these individuals fundamentally altered the governing structures of their respective nations, shaping the course of modern history.

**168.** (A) Colonialism
The late nineteenth-century competition for territory and resources in a vast southern continent is a prime example of imperial expansion. Major powers sought to establish political control over distant lands to secure natural resources and create exclusive trade markets. This process often involved the displacement of local populations and the systematic exploitation of their wealth, reflecting a global drive for national power and economic dominance.

**169.** (B) The pursuit of national interest through power politics.
A pragmatic approach to diplomacy and governance emphasizes the practical needs of the state over abstract ideals or moral considerations. This policy often involves the strategic use of military force and shifting alliances to achieve specific national goals, such as unification or increased territorial control. By focusing on reality and power dynamics, leaders aim to strengthen their nation's position in a competitive international environment.

**170.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The catastrophic pandemic of the mid-fourteenth century significantly reduced the population, leading to a profound labor shortage across the continent. This shift actually increased the bargaining power of common people, as their work became more valuable in a depleted labor market. Far from strengthening traditional obligations, these circumstances allowed many individuals to successfully demand higher wages and greater personal freedom from the elite.

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**171.** (B) Systems of social hierarchy and economic control.
Various historical structures have been established to manage labor, land, and political authority through rigid social tiers. Whether based on hereditary status, land-based obligations, or the categorizing of individuals as legal property, these systems ensured the dominance of a small group over the majority of the population. They provided the framework for economic productivity and social order within their respective civilizations for many generations.

**172.** (B) Liberalism and Parliamentary Democracy.
The rise of authoritarian regimes in the inter-war period was a direct reaction against the principles of representative governance and individual rights. Many people, disillusioned by political instability and economic crises, turned to strong leaders who promised order through the suppression of dissent. These movements rejected the idea of pluralism and multi-party systems, instead favoring a centralized authority that controlled all aspects of national life.

the geopolitical landscape of Europe for several decades.

**139.** (A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
Diverse political, social, and cultural phenomena have emerged in different parts of the world, shaping regional histories. From systems of land management and tax collection in southern Asia to the intellectual and artistic rebirth that began in the city-states of the south, these developments are rooted in specific locations. Similarly, radical ideologies and land-based hierarchies have historically defined the governing structures of various nations.

**140.** (B) A cultural rebirth challenging medieval norms.
The transition toward modernity was marked by an intellectual movement that sought to revive the values and knowledge of classical antiquity. This period emphasized human reason and the potential of the individual, diverging from the predominantly spiritual and institutional focus of the preceding centuries. By encouraging scientific inquiry and artistic innovation, it fundamentally redefined the relationship between humanity and the world.

**141.** (A) The Austro-Hungarian Empire
The immediate trigger of the first global industrial conflict was a political assassination in the Balkans. The victim was the heir to the throne of a major multi-ethnic state in central Europe. This event activated a rigid network of military alliances, as several major powers felt compelled to intervene in the ensuing regional crisis, rapidly escalating it into a general European and global war.

**142.** (C) Obligations based on land tenure.
Medieval social and political organization was defined by a decentralized system of reciprocal duties and rights. In this structure, individuals held territory from a superior in exchange for military service and personal loyalty. This hierarchy of personal bonds and land-based control dictated the economic life and legal status of nearly all members of society, forming the era's primary governing framework.

**143.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The radical social upheaval in late eighteenth-century France was fueled by a combination of intellectual shifts, financial crisis, and systemic inequality. Philosophical ideas about individual rights challenged the absolute power of the monarch, while a massive state debt and a rigid three-tier social structure created widespread suffering among the general population. Together, these factors made a violent break from the old order inevitable.

**144.** (B) The capitalist system and private property.
Certain political and economic theories emerge as a challenge to systems where wealth and the means of production are controlled by a small group of individuals for profit. These ideologies advocate for collective ownership to ensure that resources are used for the benefit of all members of society. By critiquing the inequalities produced by private enterprise, they seek to create a more equitable social structure.

NODIA

**145.** (A) The appeal of authoritarian solutions during crisis.
The rise of dictatorial regimes in the early twentieth century demonstrated how widespread economic and political instability can drive people toward strong, non-democratic leaders. In times of extreme social unrest and national humiliation, many citizens are willing to trade personal freedoms for the promise of order and restored pride. This phenomenon illustrates the fragility of democratic systems when faced with prolonged and severe challenges.

**146.** (C) The Russian Revolution of 1917
The radical political transformation of a large northern empire in the early twentieth century resulted in the creation of the world's first state based on Marxist ideology. This movement led to the complete restructuring of society, including the elimination of the monarchy and the redistribution of wealth. The establishment of this socialist nation significantly altered the global geopolitical landscape and influenced many future revolutionary movements.

**147.** (B) Code of law
One of the most significant legacies of the ancient Roman state was the development of a systematic and documented body of statutes.

This contribution ensured that legal rules were consistently applied and made accessible to the public, moving away from arbitrary governance. The principles of clear, written law have influenced the development of jurisprudence and the rule of law in many modern nations.

**148.** (A) Spreading revolution ideals and empire creation.
The era of a prominent military leader was significant because it carried the principles of a major social upheaval across much of the continent. Through his conquests and the implementation of new legal systems, he dismantled many traditional feudal structures and introduced modern concepts of citizenship and administration. His influence fundamentally reshaped the map and political foundations of Europe during the early nineteenth century.

**149.** (C) Pope
During the Middle Ages, the highest authority in the religious hierarchy held immense influence over both spiritual and political life across the continent. This office acted as a central power that could influence the actions of kings and emperors, often mediating disputes and setting moral and legal standards for all of society. This position reflected the era's belief in the supreme dominance of religious institutions.

**150.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The transition to machine-based production began in a specific sector characterized by high demand and technological innovation. New inventions allowed for the mass production of cloth at a speed and scale previously impossible with manual labor. This shift fundamentally altered the economy and society of the nation where it began, marking the start of a broader era of industrialization and urban growth.

**151.** (B) German-speaking political entity in Central Europe.
This historical institution was a complex and decentralized collection of territories that existed for centuries in the heart of the continent. Rather than being a unified nation-state, it functioned as a loose confederation of principalities and cities under a symbolic leader. It reflected the intricate political and cultural landscape of the region before the rise of modern centralized governments.

**152.** (A) Protestant Reformation
The significant religious shift in the sixteenth century challenged the authority and practices of the established institutional church. This movement led to the creation of several new branches of faith and fundamentally altered the religious landscape of the West. It sparked widespread social and political changes, including prolonged conflicts and a permanent division within the Christian community, which still persists today.

**153.** (B) Exporting more than importing creates strength.
Early modern economic theory held that a country's power was directly linked to its ability to accumulate precious metals. To achieve this, nations focused on maintaining a trade surplus by maximizing the sale of goods abroad while minimizing foreign purchases. This philosophy encouraged government intervention through tariffs and support for domestic manufacturing to ensure that wealth remained within the national borders.

**154.** (B) Nationalist and Communist.
The political transformation of a major East Asian nation in the twentieth century occurred in two distinct stages with very different outcomes. The earlier movement sought to replace the imperial system with a republic based on nationalistic principles. However, the later conflict concluded with the establishment of a socialist state characterized by collective ownership and a fundamental restructuring of society along Marxist lines.

**155.** (A) The pre-revolutionary political and social order.
Following years of radical upheaval, European leaders met in the early nineteenth century to restore stability by returning to traditional power structures. They sought to reinforce the authority of hereditary monarchies and the privileged social tier that had existed before the recent social changes. This objective aimed to suppress the revolutionary ideologies that had recently destabilized the continent and its traditional governments.

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**156.** (A) The fate of the declining Ottoman Empire.
Strategic and diplomatic tensions in the nineteenth century were driven by the weakening of a major Mediterranean power and the potential vacuum it would leave. European nations competed to influence these territories to protect their own economic and political interests. Fearing that any change in control would disrupt the continental balance of power, they remained deeply involved in the empire's internal affairs.

**157.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Major conflicts throughout the modern era have been driven by a variety of strategic, political, and social issues. From territorial disputes over declining empires and struggles for colonial independence to the consolidation of national identities through warfare, these events have reshaped the global landscape. Each conflict reflects the complex interplay of nationalism, shifting alliances, and the ongoing quest for sovereignty and power.

**158.** (D) The establishment of Feudalism
The movement to unify people based on shared language, culture, and history was a powerful force that reshaped the map of the continent in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It fueled regional conflicts and the creation of several new nation-states. In contrast, earlier medieval social structures were based on localized personal loyalties and land tenure rather than a unified sense of national identity or statehood.

**159.** (A) The rise of the United States as a creditor nation.
The first truly global industrial conflict fundamentally shifted the world's economic center of gravity. As many European powers faced immense financial debt from the cost of prolonged warfare, another nation across the ocean emerged as a major source of capital. This change in economic status reflected the shifting power balance and marked the beginning of that nation's dominant role in global affairs.

**160.** (B) 1 and 3 only
Authoritarian regimes in the early twentieth century were characterized by a total rejection of democratic processes and the concentration of power under a singular leader. While these ideologies shared many features like state control and propaganda, one specific movement also prioritized notions of biological hierarchy. These systems suppressed individual rights to serve the nation, reflecting a worldview that rejected global worker solidarity.

**161.** (C) The Treaty of Versailles
The settlement following the conclusion of the first global industrial war created deep-seated resentment and economic instability in the primary defeated nation. Its harsh terms, including financial reparations and territorial losses, provided fertile ground for radical leaders to rise by promising to undo these grievances. The inability of this agreement to create a lasting and perceivedly fair peace directly contributed to future conflict.

**162.** (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
In 1945, world leaders established a new international body designed to prevent the recurrence of the massive destruction seen in recent years. The primary objective was to maintain global security and foster cooperation among all nations through diplomacy. While this organization became a central forum for international relations, it was not created to serve as a military alliance directed against any specific state.

**163.** (A) The rise of a money-based economy and growth of towns.
The decline of traditional medieval hierarchies was accelerated by the growth of commerce and the emergence of urban centers. As trade expanded, the transition toward a currency-based system allowed individuals more flexibility and freedom than land-based obligations. This shift undermined the rigid structures of decentralized political control, leading to the rise of new social classes and the central power of monarchs.

**164.** (C) Classical Greek and Roman culture and learning.
The intellectual and cultural movement that began in the fourteenth century was characterized by a renewed interest in the achievements of antiquity. Scholars and artists sought to revive the wisdom, literature, and artistic styles of the ancient world, emphasizing human potential and reason. This focus on classical precedents fundamentally

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**113.** (C) Salvation through faith alone.
The significant religious shift in the sixteenth century was centered on a new interpretation of how individuals could achieve spiritual peace. By challenging the necessity of specific institutional rituals and emphasizing the direct relationship between the believer and the divine through scripture, this movement sought to return to what it saw as original Christian principles. This idea sparked widespread reform.

**114.** (D) Principles of Justinian's Code
One of the most lasting contributions of the ancient Roman state was the systematic organization of legal rules into a comprehensive body of law. This effort ensured that statutes were clearly documented and consistently applied, providing a model for jurisprudence that influenced legal systems across Europe and beyond. These compiled regulations helped preserve the state's legal wisdom for many future generations.

**115.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The political transformation in the mid-twentieth century resulted in the establishment of a socialist state under a prominent revolutionary leader. While this event followed an earlier movement that had ended imperial rule, it was not the immediate consequence of that first change. Instead, it was the result of decades of internal conflict and social upheaval between competing national factions and ideologies.

**116.** (C) Parliamentary Democracy
Certain radical ideologies based on absolute state authority and biological hierarchy are fundamentally at odds with systems of representative governance. While the former demands total conformity and suppresses dissent under a singular leader, the latter relies on pluralism, individual rights, and the peaceful exchange of power through elections. These two models represent completely opposing views on the role of the citizen and the state.

**117.** (C) Grievances over "taxation without representation".
The movement for independence in North America was primarily driven by a conflict over fiscal authority and political voice. Settlers argued that they should not be subject to financial burdens imposed by a distant parliament in which they had no direct voice. This fundamental disagreement over the rights of citizens eventually led to a total break from the overseas monarchy and the founding of a republic.

**118.** (A) The end of the French Revolution and the Congress of Vienna.
The career of a prominent military leader spans a specific historical window following a major social upheaval. After rising to prominence in the late eighteenth century, he consolidated power and created an empire that dominated the continent. His influence ended in the early nineteenth century after his final defeat and the subsequent diplomatic summit that sought to restore the traditional conservative order.

**119.** (C) The emergence of the USA and USSR as superpowers.
The conclusion of the second global conflict fundamentally transformed the world's power structure by elevating two dominant nations with opposing political systems. This shift led to a new era of international relations defined by their global rivalry and the division of many regions into separate spheres of influence. This period of ideological tension significantly influenced the political and economic landscape of the twentieth century.

**120.** (D) The collapse of the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires.
The aftermath of the first global industrial conflict led to the immediate downfall of several long-standing multi-ethnic states. These traditional systems were unable to survive the immense pressure of prolonged warfare and internal nationalist movements. Their dissolution resulted in the creation of numerous new sovereign countries, fundamentally redrawing the map of the continent and the adjacent Mediterranean regions.

**121.** (B) The Sick Man of Europe Question
Strategic and diplomatic tensions in the nineteenth century often focused on the ongoing decline of a major Mediterranean power. European leaders frequently used a specific metaphor to describe this weakening state, as its inability to maintain control over its territories threatened the regional balance of power. This

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**173.** (C) Based on consistent, public, and non-personal rules.
The foundational principle of a formal legal system is to ensure that justice is administered through a predictable and documented framework. By establishing statutes that are known to everyone and applied equally, a society moves away from arbitrary and unpredictable rule. This consistency provides a stable environment for resolving disputes and ensures that authority is exercised according to established laws rather than personal whims.

**174.** (A) Nationalism
The drive to unify people based on common history, language, and culture was a transformative force in the nineteenth century. This movement successfully brought fragmented territories together into cohesive and sovereign nation-states, significantly altering the geopolitical map of the continent. The shared sense of identity provided the emotional and political foundation necessary to overcome traditional divisions and foreign influence during these consolidation processes.

**175.** (C) Total scale, industrial nature, and global involvement.
The first truly global conflict in the early twentieth century was distinguished by its unprecedented use of mass production and advanced technology for warfare. It involved the total mobilization of national economies and civilian populations, extending far beyond the traditional battlefield. The geographic reach and the sheer scale of mobilization and destruction marked a profound shift in how modern wars were fought and experienced.

**176.** (B) The policy of acquiring political control and economic exploitation.
Imperial expansion involves the establishment of dominance by a powerful nation over a distant territory and its people. This process is driven by the desire to secure natural resources, control strategic locations, and create new markets for the ruling state's goods. It typically results in the suppression of local sovereignty and the systematic use of the region's wealth and labor for the benefit of the colonizing power.

**177.** (B) Mao Zedong
The radical political transformation of a major East Asian nation in the mid-twentieth century was led by a prominent revolutionary figure. He spearheaded the movement that successfully established a socialist state based on the centralized control of the economy and the redistribution of land. His leadership during the civil war and the subsequent founding of the new state fundamentally reshaped the nation's modern history.

**178.** (B) Europe into Western and Soviet spheres.
Following the conclusion of the second global conflict, a symbolic barrier emerged that divided the continent into two distinct political and ideological camps. This separation reflected the intense rivalry between two dominant powers with opposing views on governance and economic systems. This divide influenced international relations for several decades, creating a state of ongoing tension and limited communication between the opposing regions of the world.

**179.** (A) State direction and control to serve national needs.
Dictatorial regimes in the early twentieth century often implemented economic policies that prioritized the goals of the nation over individual enterprise. While private property sometimes existed, the government exercised significant authority over production, labor, and resources to build military strength and ensure national self-sufficiency. This centralized oversight was designed to align all financial activity with the state's broader political and expansionist objectives.

**180.** (B) United States of America
Strategic and diplomatic tensions regarding the decline of a major Mediterranean power primarily involved nations located in or near the continent. These powers were deeply concerned about the regional balance of power and the control of key maritime routes. One major nation across the ocean remained largely detached from these specific European territorial disputes during that era, focusing instead on its own internal development and regional interests.

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**181.** (A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
Significant historical figures have left lasting impacts on the political and religious landscape through their leadership and actions. From architects of national unification and imperial expansion to leaders of transformative religious movements and dominant diplomatic figures, their influence defined entire eras. Each individual played a crucial role in reshaping national boundaries, governing structures, or long-standing societal beliefs during their respective periods of prominence.

**182.** (A) The consequences of the Treaty of Versailles.
The settlement following the first global conflict created an environment of economic hardship and national humiliation for the primary defeated nation. Its harsh terms, including financial penalties and territorial losses, provided fertile ground for the rise of radical leaders who promised to restore national pride. This deep-seated resentment was a significant factor that destabilized international relations and eventually led to the outbreak of another massive war.

**183.** (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
The late eighteenth-century upheaval in France introduced transformative ideals of citizenship and equal rights for all members of society. While these principles fundamentally challenged the old monarchical order, the subsequent rise of an imperial leader represented a shift back toward centralized, autocratic control. Although he preserved some legal reforms, his regime prioritized personal power and continental expansion over the democratic fulfillment of the revolution's original goals.

**184.** (D) Monarchy
The development of a representative governing system in one western nation was a gradual process that focused on transferring power from the crown to an elected assembly. Over several centuries, various legal and political challenges were made to limit the absolute authority of the sovereign and ensure that the people had a voice in taxation and lawmaking. This transition laid the foundation for modern parliamentary governance.

**185.** (B) 3, 2, 1
Significant political transitions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries followed a specific sequence of events. The rise of a prominent imperial leader following a major social upheaval was followed by a major diplomatic summit to restore order and redraw national boundaries. These changes eventually led to the complex system of alliances and tensions that precipitated the first truly global and industrial conflict in 1914.

**186.** (A) The best and most virtuous citizens.
This term literally describes a system where authority is held by a small group of individuals considered to be of the highest quality or character. Historically, this group was often a privileged noble class that justified its dominance through claims of superior wisdom, skill, or birthright. While it was intended to be rule by the most capable, it typically became a system of inherited power and social status.

**187.** (A) The First World War
The radical political transformation of a large northern empire in 1917 led to a significant change in its foreign policy. The new revolutionary leadership, seeking to consolidate its power and address internal crises, negotiated an end to its involvement in the ongoing global conflict. This withdrawal allowed the nation to focus on its own social restructuring while fundamentally altering the military situation for the remaining combatant powers.

**188.** (A) Fascism is nationalist, while socialism is internationalist.
Two major early twentieth-century ideologies presented completely different views on the focus of social and political struggle. One movement emphasized the absolute importance of the nation and national identity above all other concerns. In contrast, the other ideology advocated for global solidarity among the working class, arguing that the struggle for equality transcended national borders and that the goal was a worldwide transformation of society.

**189.** (A) New industrial bourgeoisie.
The transition to machine-based manufacturing resulted in a fundamental shift in the social structure. Alongside the growing urban workforce,

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a new tier of wealthy individuals emerged who owned the factories, mines, and transportation networks. This class held significant economic power and eventually gained political influence, challenging the traditional dominance of the land-based elite and defining the social dynamics of the modern era.

**190.** (D) A is false but R is true.
The process of national consolidation on the southern peninsula was a complex and multifaceted movement that lasted for several decades. It was not the work of a single individual, but rather involved a combination of diverse strategies, including grassroots revolutionary activity, military campaigns, and sophisticated diplomatic maneuvers. Various influential figures played distinct roles, working together or separately to overcome internal divisions and foreign political dominance.

**191.** (D) The Ottoman Empire
In the early twentieth century, a group of reformists sought to revitalize their declining state by introducing Western-style political structures and nationalistic reforms. They aimed to modernize the administration and limit the absolute power of the monarch by establishing a constitutional government. Their efforts were part of a broader movement to strengthen the nation against internal decay and the increasing influence of foreign powers in the region.

**192.** (B) The beginning of the process of decolonization.
The conclusion of the second global conflict left many major imperial powers financially exhausted and politically weakened. This shift made it increasingly difficult for these nations to maintain control over their distant overseas territories. Consequently, movements for independence gained significant strength, leading to the rapid end of traditional empires and the establishment of numerous new sovereign nations across several continents in the subsequent decades.

**193.** (D) The invention of the printing press.
The ancient Mediterranean state left a profound legacy that influenced many aspects of modern society, including sophisticated legal codes, administrative systems, and architectural techniques. Its influence also extended to the spread of language and culture across a vast territory. However, some major technological advancements, such as the development of mechanical movable type for mass communication, occurred many centuries after the fall of this imperial power.

**194.** (A) An absolute monarchy or dictatorship.
Representative systems of government are built on the principles of popular sovereignty, individual rights, and the accountability of leaders to an elected body. These systems stand in direct opposition to forms of governance where power is concentrated in the hands of a single, non-elected ruler. While the former relies on pluralism and the rule of law, the latter often depends on arbitrary authority and the suppression of dissent.

**195.** (D) Increasing labor value and allowing peasant freedom demands.
The catastrophic pandemic of the mid-fourteenth century fundamentally altered the economic relationship between landowners and the common people. By significantly reducing the available workforce, the event made manual labor far more valuable than it had been previously. This shift allowed survivors to demand better compensation and greater personal liberty, ultimately weakening the traditional land-based hierarchies and decentralized political structures that had dominated the era.

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**196.** (C) The First World War
The outbreak of the first truly global industrial conflict was rooted in deep-seated tensions and a rigid system of mutual defense agreements. Intense national pride and the competition for imperial territories further destabilized relations among the Great Powers. Additionally, the expansion of military capabilities and the glorification of warfare created an environment where a localized incident could rapidly escalate into a general European and worldwide war.

**197.** (D) The absolute authority and spiritual value of the State.
An authoritarian ideology in southern Europe emphasized the total subordination of the individual to a centralized power. This system viewed the nation as a unified and sacred entity that should control all aspects of public and

world order and fostering peace among all member states.

**247.** (A) A state with a codified legal system.
The ancient Mediterranean state left a profound legacy that influenced many aspects of modern society, particularly through the systematic organization of legal statutes. This contribution ensured that rules were clearly documented and consistently applied, moving away from arbitrary governance. The principles of a formal and public body of law have influenced the development of jurisprudence and the rule of law in many nations across the world for centuries.

**248.** (B) Renaissance
The intellectual and cultural movement that began in early modern Europe redirected attention toward human reason and the value of individual potential. This shift away from exclusively institutional religious concerns was driven by a renewed interest in classical knowledge and the study of humanities. By encouraging scientific inquiry and artistic innovation, this movement fundamentally challenged the spiritual monopoly of the church and laid the philosophical foundation for the modern world.

**249.** (C) Unification of Germany
Global economic and political shifts often occur through the consolidation of diverse territories into powerful new entities. This process involves the integration of local markets, resources, and administrative systems under a single authority to maximize national power. Such a transformation significantly alters the geopolitical landscape and allows the new state to compete more effectively on the international stage, demonstrating a radical reorganization of regional economic and social life.

**250.** (A) Liberal democracy and communism.
Radical authoritarian movements in the early twentieth century emerged as a direct reaction against the principles of representative governance and the threat of radical social restructuring. Many people, disillusioned by political instability and economic crises, turned to strong leaders who promised order through the suppression of dissent and the glorification of the state. These regimes rejected pluralism and global worker solidarity, instead favoring a centralized, nationalist authority.

**251.** (D) An alliance between the Holy Roman and Ottoman empires.
Strategic and diplomatic tensions in previous centuries often centered on the complex relationships between diverse political entities and declining empires. These interactions were driven by the need to maintain a balance of power and manage territorial changes across broad regions. Such alliances and conflicts reflected the intricate challenges of coordinating interests between traditionally opposing systems while addressing the ongoing shifts in geopolitical influence and regional stability over long periods.

**252.** (B) The First World War
Territorial conflicts in the southeastern part of the continent served as a significant precursor to the first truly global and industrial conflict. As emerging nations fought to gain land from a declining imperial power, major European states became increasingly involved in these local disputes to protect their own interests. These regional struggles intensified existing rivalries, creating an environment where a localized incident could rapidly escalate into a general worldwide war.

**253.** (C) The American Revolution and the Unification of Germany
Major historical periods are defined by the transitions between significant political upheavals and the eventual consolidation of national identities. From the early movements for independence and representative governance in the late eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth-century efforts to create unified nation-states, these events represent the ongoing evolution of global power structures. Each milestone fundamentally altered the governing principles and boundaries of nations, shaping the foundations of the modern international system.

**254.** (A) Antisemitism and racial ideology
While many dictatorial regimes shared authoritarian traits like the suppression of dissent and the use of propaganda, one specific movement was uniquely defined by its commitment to biological hierarchy. This ideology placed the preservation and expansion of a specific ethnic

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**206.** (B) The Renaissance and the Religion Reform Movement
The dominance of institutional religious authority was significantly challenged by new intellectual and social developments in early modern Europe. An emphasis on human reason and the rediscovery of classical knowledge fostered critical thinking, while challenges to established ecclesiastical doctrines led to major structural divisions within the faith. Together, these movements shifted the focus toward individual agency and secular authority, undermining the traditional spiritual monopoly of the church.

**207.** (D) Oligarchy
Governance by a small, influential group is a form of rule where power is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals. These leaders often belong to a specific social class, such as the wealthy or a hereditary elite, and exercise significant control over the state's policies and resources. This structure limits the participation of the general populace in the political process, reflecting a system based on privilege and status.

**208.** (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Radical political upheavals in the twentieth century often led to the establishment of systems where the state exercised absolute control over all aspects of human life. However, several earlier movements were driven by completely different goals. The eighteenth-century drive for independence in North America aimed to establish a republic based on individual rights, the consent of the governed, and representative governance, rather than a system of total state control.

**209.** (A) The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
The immediate cause of the first truly global and industrial conflict was a political act in the Balkans that activated a rigid network of military alliances. When the heir to a major central European throne was killed, several Great Powers were rapidly drawn into the crisis to protect their own interests. This event transformed a localized regional dispute into a general war that spanned several continents and years.

**210.** (B) Industrial Revolution consequences gave rise to Socialism.
The transition to machine-based production led to significant social and economic hardships for many people, including poor working conditions and widespread inequality. In response to these difficulties, new ideologies emerged that advocated for collective ownership of the means of production to ensure a fairer distribution of wealth. These movements sought to address the systemic challenges created by the rapid and unregulated growth of industrial capitalism.

**211.** (C) A is true but R is false.
Following the conclusion of the second global conflict, a new international body was established to maintain global security and foster cooperation among nations. While this organization was created to prevent future catastrophes, its predecessor had unfortunately proven unable to stop the massive aggression and warfare that characterized the previous years. The new institution was designed with greater authority and broader participation to more effectively preserve world peace.

**212.** (B) Situation arising from the decline of the Ottoman Empire.
Strategic and diplomatic tensions in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were driven by the ongoing weakening of a major Mediterranean power. European nations were concerned about the regional balance of power and the potential vacuum that would be left if the empire collapsed. This situation led to several regional conflicts and diplomatic summits as Great Powers competed to influence the territories and future of that state.

**213.** (C) A system of free trade and open markets.
Early modern economic policies fundamentally restructured the relationship between national power and global commerce. By prioritizing the accumulation of resources and the expansion of trade networks, these systems laid the groundwork for future international economic integration. Governments focused on creating stable environments for merchant activity and securing access to diverse markets, illustrating a transition toward a more interconnected and exchange-based global economic structure.

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changes allowed common people to negotiate for better conditions, eventually contributing to the decline of traditional medieval decentralized political structures and obligations.

**231.** (D) The European Middle Ages
During a specific historical period lasting several centuries, religious institutions occupied a central position in the social and political hierarchy. This dominance meant that spiritual leaders frequently influenced the laws of the land and the decisions of secular rulers. The reach of this authority extended into nearly every aspect of daily life, reflecting a society where faith and institutional power were deeply intertwined before the rise of modernity.

**232.** (B) Industrial Capitalism
Early modern economic policies focused on trade surpluses and precious metals were eventually replaced by a new system characterized by machine-based production and free market competition. This shift occurred as technological innovations and the growth of factories transformed the scale of manufacturing. The new model emphasized private investment and global trade, fundamentally altering the social structure and the way national wealth was generated and distributed.

**233.** (D) The People's Republic of China.
The radical political transformation of a major East Asian nation in 1949 resulted in the establishment of a state based on Marxist ideology. This movement led to the complete restructuring of society, including the centralized control of the economy and the redistribution of land. The founding of this new sovereign entity significantly altered the global geopolitical landscape and marked the beginning of a new era of governance.

**234.** (D) The inter-war period.
The rise of authoritarian regimes and dictatorial powers occurred during a specific window of time between two massive global conflicts. Following the first major industrial war, many nations faced significant economic crises and political instability, which radical leaders exploited to gain support. This era was characterized by a rejection of democratic processes and the emergence of regimes based on extreme nationalism and absolute state control over all citizens.

**235.** (A) The successful unification of the Holy Roman Empire
The first truly global conflict resulted in several profound changes, including the collapse of long-standing imperial systems and the redrawing of national boundaries. It also led to the creation of international bodies intended to maintain peace. However, some historical entities that had existed as decentralized confederations for centuries were not consolidated by this conflict; instead, many such traditional structures had already been fundamentally transformed or dissolved earlier.

**236.** (B) Nationalism and Prussian militarism.
The consolidation of various independent territories into a single, powerful empire was achieved through a combination of strategic warfare and a strong sense of shared identity. This movement emphasized military strength and the leadership of a dominant northern kingdom to overcome regional divisions. The resulting unified state emerged as a formidable industrial and political force, fundamentally altering the continental balance of power and asserting its dominance on the international stage.

**237.** (D) Feudalism
Certain socioeconomic structures established to manage agricultural land and revenue collection share key characteristics across different regions. These systems relied on a hierarchy of intermediaries who held rights over specific territories and the labor of the people living there in exchange for service to the state. This arrangement created a decentralized network of control and land-based obligations that defined rural social relations and economic productivity for many generations.

**238.** (B) That law should be written, public, and systematic.
The foundational principle of a formal legal system is to ensure that rules are clearly documented and consistently applied to everyone. By making statutes accessible and moving away from unpredictable, arbitrary rule, a society provides a stable and predictable framework for governance. This systematic approach ensures that authority

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autonomy and personal rights. They were considered commodities that could be bought, sold, and used at the discretion of their masters. This condition was often hereditary and involved a total absence of civic participation, making them mere instruments of labor within the state's economic and social structures for many generations.

**223.** (B) The city-states of Italy.
The intellectual and cultural rebirth that began in the fourteenth century had its origins in the prosperous urban centers of the southern peninsula. These independent territories were hubs of trade and wealth, providing the resources necessary to support artists, scholars, and scientists. The rediscovery of classical knowledge and the focus on human potential flourished in this environment, eventually spreading across the rest of the continent and shaping modernity.

**224.** (D) American Revolution of 1776 AD
Significant political upheavals have fundamentally reshaped national identities across different centuries. While several major transformations occurred during the early and mid-twentieth century, one pivotal movement for independence took place in North America during the late seventeen-hundreds. This event challenged colonial rule and introduced modern concepts of representative governance and individual rights, setting a precedent for future global movements seeking sovereignty and democratic rule.

**225.** (D) The Battle of Waterloo
The final collapse of a major imperial era occurred during a decisive military engagement in the early nineteenth century. A coalition of European powers successfully confronted and defeated the forces of the former emperor, ending his brief return to power. This defeat led to his permanent removal from the political stage and the subsequent diplomatic efforts to restore long-term stability and traditional governance across the continent.

**226.** (D) Eastern Problem
Strategic and diplomatic tensions in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were centered on the decline of a major Mediterranean power. Several regional wars, diplomatic summits, and internal reform movements were all part of the ongoing struggle among Great Powers to manage the vacuum left by this weakening state. These events reflected the complex challenges of balancing national interests while addressing the instability created by imperial decay.

**227.** (D) fall of Roman Empire.
The outbreak of the first truly global and industrial conflict can be traced to long-standing territorial shifts and the eventual collapse of traditional multi-ethnic states. The geopolitical vacuum left by ancient and medieval imperial systems created a landscape where competing nationalisms and rivalries flourished. These historical precedents set the stage for the intense competition and military expansion that finally erupted into widespread warfare in 1914.

**228.** (A) Italy
An authoritarian regime based on extreme nationalism and absolute state control first rose to power in southern Europe following the first global conflict. Led by a singular figure who used paramilitary force to suppress dissent, this state rejected democracy and individual rights in favor of national unity and military strength. Its development served as a model for similar dictatorial movements that emerged across the continent during the inter-war period.

**229.** (C) The Second World War
The establishment of a major international body in 1945 was a direct response to the unprecedented scale of destruction seen in recent years. World leaders recognized that the existing systems had failed to maintain peace, leading to a catastrophic global conflict. The new organization was designed to foster international cooperation, protect human rights, and prevent the recurrence of such a devastating and widespread war on a global scale.

**230.** (A) Causing labor shortages and challenging the feudal system.
The catastrophic pandemic of the mid-fourteenth century significantly reduced the population, leading to profound social and economic shifts across the continent. This massive demographic collapse fundamentally challenged existing land-based hierarchies as the resulting labor shortage increased the value of manual work. These

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private life. The state was considered the ultimate source of order and meaning, requiring absolute loyalty and obedience from every citizen to achieve national greatness and internal stability.

**198.** (A) Creating the grievances that fueled the rise of Nazism.
The settlement following the first global conflict is often criticized for imposing harsh territorial and financial penalties on the primary defeated nation. These punitive measures fostered deep resentment and economic instability, which radical leaders were able to exploit to gain popular support. By promising to restore national pride and undo the terms of the treaty, these movements were able to consolidate power and eventually precipitate another war.

**199.** (C) Sun Yat-sen
The political transformation in the early twentieth century that ended millennia of imperial rule was led by a prominent revolutionary figure. He advocated for a republic based on the principles of nationalism, democracy, and social welfare. His leadership during the uprising and his efforts to unify various revolutionary groups made him a central figure in the founding of the new state and the pursuit of national modernization.

**200.** (A) To secure raw materials and markets for the colonizing power.
Imperial expansion was primarily driven by the economic needs of powerful nations during a period of rapid industrial growth. By establishing control over distant territories, these states ensured a steady supply of natural resources and agricultural products for their own industries. Additionally, these regions provided exclusive markets for finished goods, helping to maintain a favorable balance of trade and support national wealth and influence.

**201.** (C) The Congress of Vienna and the Battle of Waterloo.
The era of a prominent imperial ruler concluded following a decisive military engagement and a major diplomatic summit. After his final defeat by a coalition of European powers, he was permanently removed from power and exiled. Subsequently, leaders met to redraw the map of the continent and restore traditional power structures, aiming to ensure long-term stability and prevent the recurrence of radical revolutionary upheavals.

**202.** (B) Public ownership or control of production.
Certain political and economic theories emerge as a critique of systems where wealth is concentrated in private hands. These ideologies advocate for resources and the means of production to be managed collectively or by the state to ensure that the benefits are shared by all members of society. By prioritizing social welfare over individual profit, they seek to create a more equitable and stable social order.

**203.** (A) Mercantilism - Adam Smith
Early modern economic policies focused on government intervention and trade surpluses were often criticized by thinkers who advocated for free markets and limited state involvement. While several influential leaders and ideologies are closely associated with specific political movements, one renowned economist is actually famous for his critique of traditional trade regulations and for developing the foundational principles of modern capitalism, which stand in opposition to those earlier theories.

**204.** (D) Realpolitik and military power
The consolidation of various territories into a single, powerful empire was achieved by a pragmatic leader who prioritized the practical needs of the state over abstract ideals. He utilized a combination of strategic military force and sophisticated diplomatic maneuvers to achieve his goals. This approach demonstrated how a focused and power-based policy could successfully reshape the geopolitical map and establish dominance on the continent.

**205.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Major political transformations have fundamentally reshaped national identities and governance across different centuries. From achieving independence and radical social upheaval in the eighteenth century to the national unifications and socialist revolutions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, these events have defined the modern era. Each milestone represents a significant shift in the organization of society and the exercise of political power on a global scale.

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is exercised according to established laws rather than personal whims, which is essential for maintaining social order and justice.

**239.** (C) The French Revolution restructured society more radically.
While two major late eighteenth-century upheavals were influenced by similar ideals of individual rights, they resulted in different levels of internal change. One movement primarily focused on achieving political independence and representative governance. In contrast, the other went much further by attempting to completely dismantle traditional class privileges, the power of institutional religion, and the existing social hierarchy, leading to a much more profound and violent restructuring of the entire nation.

**240.** (B) Transition to machine-based economies.
This term refers to the fundamental shift in human history from manual labor and animal power to the use of technology and machines for production. This transformation began in the textile and steam power sectors and eventually led to large-scale manufacturing and rapid urbanization. The scale of these changes was so profound that it permanently altered social structures, economic systems, and the daily lives of people worldwide.

**241.** (B) Rule by a hereditary noble class.
This term literally describes a system where authority is held by a small group of individuals considered to be of the highest quality or character. Historically, this group was often a privileged noble class that justified its dominance through claims of superior wisdom, skill, or birthright. While it was intended to be rule by the most capable, it typically became a system of inherited power and social status within a rigid hierarchy.

**242.** (A) "Peace, Land, and Bread"
The radical political transformation in a large northern empire was supported by simple, powerful demands that addressed the immediate needs of the population. People sought an end to their country's involvement in a devastating global conflict, the redistribution of agricultural territory to those who worked it, and a solution to the severe food shortages. These goals became the rallying cry for the group that eventually seized control and restructured society.

**243.** (B) A coalition determined to restore the old order.
The final collapse of a major imperial era was the result of a coordinated effort by several European powers that opposed the spread of revolutionary ideals and territorial expansion. These nations worked together to defeat the imperial leader through a combination of military force and diplomatic pressure. Their ultimate goal was to restore stability and return traditional ruling houses to power, effectively ending the period of massive continental upheaval.

**244.** (D) Nationalism and reform in the empire.
In the early twentieth century, a group of individuals sought to revitalize their declining state by challenging the absolute power of the monarch and advocating for modernization. They aimed to implement nationalistic and secular reforms to strengthen the nation against both internal decay and foreign influence. Their efforts were part of a broader movement to establish a constitutional government and ensure the state's survival in a changing global landscape.

**245.** (B) Imposing a harsh and humiliating peace.
The settlement following the conclusion of the first global industrial war is often criticized for the severe territorial and financial penalties it placed on the primary defeated nation. These punitive measures fostered deep resentment and economic instability, which radical leaders were able to exploit to gain popular support. By promising to restore national pride and undo these grievances, these movements gained power and eventually precipitated another major conflict.

**246.** (B) Prevent another world war.
Following the global devastation of the 1940s, international leaders established a permanent diplomatic body designed to resolve disputes through cooperation rather than violence. The primary objective was to ensure global security and protect human rights to avoid the recurrence of another massive and widespread war. This new organization represented a significant shift toward a collective approach to maintaining

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and reform movements as Great Powers competed to influence the future of that weakening state.

**263.** (C) Liberalism
The movements to unify fragmented territories into cohesive nation-states in the nineteenth century were often guided by the principles of individual rights, self-governance, and representative institutions. These ideas challenged traditional autocratic rule and emphasized that political power should be based on the shared identity and consent of the people. This ideological framework provided the foundation for building modern governing structures and promoting national sovereignty and civic participation during unification.

**264.** (D) The failure of the Berlin Congress
The outbreak of the first truly global conflict can be traced to the inability of previous diplomatic summits to permanently resolve territorial disputes and the decline of traditional empires. While these meetings sought to maintain a balance of power, the resulting agreements often failed to address deep-seated nationalist aspirations and Great Power rivalries. These unresolved tensions eventually escalated, creating an environment where a general European and worldwide war became inevitable.

**265.** (A) Post-WWI economic crises and political instability.
Authoritarian movements gained significant support in the early twentieth century by exploiting widespread social and financial difficulties. Many citizens, feeling betrayed by the terms of recent peace treaties and struggling with severe inflation and unemployment, turned to strong leaders who promised order and national pride. This instability allowed radical ideologies to thrive as people grew disillusioned with the inability of democratic institutions to provide security and prosperity.

**266.** (B) Success of the Russian Revolution.
The establishment of a major socialist state in the early twentieth century fundamentally transformed the global political landscape and created a new ideological rivalry. This shift alarmed many conservative powers, who feared the spread of radical restructuring and global worker movements. The resulting tensions and the desire to curb this influence directly contributed to the geopolitical instability and the formation of competing alliances that eventually precipitated another world war.

**267.** (D) Socialist economic structure.
The ancient Mediterranean state left a complex legacy that included sophisticated methods for managing the needs of its vast population through centralized planning. By organizing large-scale labor projects, controlling the distribution of essential resources, and establishing public works, the state exercised significant authority over the economy. This approach reflected an early form of collective resource management designed to ensure social stability and the power of the central government across its territories.

**268.** (A) Inherent social and legal inequality.
Various historical systems were built upon the fundamental idea that individuals occupy different levels of status and power based on birthright, land ownership, or legal categorization. Whether based on hereditary nobility or the treatment of certain people as property, these structures ensured the dominance of an elite group over the rest of the population. These systems explicitly rejected the modern democratic principle of equal rights and participation for all citizens.

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**269.** (C) Religious dogmatism.
The catastrophic pandemic of the mid-fourteenth century led to a period of intense spiritual questioning and a focus on traditional beliefs. In the wake of massive loss of life, many sought meaning through a more rigid adherence to religious doctrines and institutional authority. This era of dogmatism paradoxically contributed to the eventual intellectual shift, as individuals began to re-evaluate these beliefs, leading to the broader cultural and scientific rebirth that followed.

**270.** (A) Absolute Monarchy and Dictatorship
Systems of government based on popular representation and individual rights stand in direct opposition to forms of rule where power is concentrated in the hands of a single, non-elected leader. While the former relies on pluralism, the rule of law, and the accountability of officials to an elected assembly, the latter depends on arbitrary authority and the suppression of political dissent.

group at the core of all state policy, justifying systematic exclusion and persecution. This focus on racial purity was a central and distinguishing feature that shaped its aggressive internal and external actions.

**255.** (A) The rule of law
The development of a systematic and documented body of statutes is essential for ensuring that governance is based on consistent and public regulations. This approach ensures that all individuals are subject to the same standards and that authority is exercised according to established rules rather than personal whim. This predictable legal framework provides the foundation for maintaining order and protecting the rights of citizens within an organized and just society.

**256.** (B) Agriculture and land ownership
Medieval social and economic life was primarily organized around a land-based hierarchy where power was decentralized among a class of noble owners. In this system, agricultural production was the central focus, and individuals held status and territory in exchange for specific services and personal loyalty. This structure emphasized mutual obligations and traditional rights rather than the machine-based production or fluid competition seen in later industrial and modern eras.

**257.** (D) Ancient China and India
The period of intellectual and artistic rebirth was characterized by an openness to diverse cultures and the rediscovery of distant wisdom and technologies. This curiosity led to an increased interest in the philosophies, craftsmanship, and administrative systems of eastern civilizations, which were often seen as ancient and highly developed. This cross-cultural exchange influenced the development of new artistic styles and scientific methods, contributing to the era's vibrancy and broad perspective.

**258.** (A) Taxation and governance
The movement for independence in North America was primarily driven by a conflict over fiscal authority and political representation. Settlers argued that they should not be subject to financial burdens imposed by a distant parliament in which they had no direct voice. This fundamental disagreement over the rights of citizens and the power of the monarchy eventually led to a total break from colonial rule and the founding of a republic.

**259.** (C) Warlords
The political transformation in the early twentieth century that ended millennia of imperial rule led to a period of significant internal instability. While the movement sought to establish a republic, the central authority often faced challenges from powerful regional leaders who maintained their own private armies and territories. Overcoming the influence of these local strongmen was a central struggle in the effort to unify the nation and create a stable, modernized government.

**260.** (A) Socialism/Communism
The radical political transformation of a large northern empire in the early twentieth century resulted in the creation of a state based on Marxist principles. This movement led to the complete restructuring of society, including the elimination of the monarchy and the centralized control of the economy. The establishment of this socialist nation significantly altered the global geopolitical landscape and marked the start of an era of ideological conflict.

**261.** (D) Redrawing the map of post-Napoleonic Europe.
Following years of continental warfare, European leaders met in the early nineteenth century to restore stability and redefine national boundaries. Their primary goal was to ensure a balance of power among major states while suppressing the radical revolutionary ideals that had recently flourished. By redesigning the map and restoring traditional power structures, they sought to maintain a conservative order and prevent future large-scale conflicts for several decades.

**262.** (B) Eastern Problem
Strategic and diplomatic tensions in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were driven by the internal decline of a major Mediterranean power and the potential vacuum it would leave. European nations were deeply concerned about the regional balance of power and the control of key territories. This situation led to several regional wars, diplomatic summits,

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**214.** (D) Made law accessible and applicable to all citizens.
One of the most significant contributions of the ancient Roman state was the systematic documentation of legal statutes, ensuring they were public and consistently applied. This development moved justice away from arbitrary governance and established the principle that all members of the community were subject to the same rules. These codified regulations provided a clear framework for resolving disputes and maintaining social order within the diverse population.

**215.** (B) Religious conflict between Catholic and Protestant states.
The significant religious shift in the sixteenth century challenged the authority of the established institutional church, leading to the creation of several new branches of faith. This movement fundamentally altered the religious landscape of the West and sparked decades of social and political upheaval. The resulting divisions often led to prolonged warfare and ideological tension between various nations, reflecting the deep impact of these transformative religious ideas.

**216.** (D) A belief in the value of liberal democracy.
Radical authoritarian ideologies in the early twentieth century were built upon the total suppression of political opposition and the glorification of a singular leader. These systems rejected the principles of individual rights, multi-party elections, and the peaceful exchange of power. Instead, they favored a centralized authority that exercised absolute control over all aspects of public and private life to serve the nation's power and military expansion.

**217.** (B) Monarchy and religion.
Following years of radical social and political upheaval, European leaders met in the early nineteenth century to restore stability by returning to traditional power structures. They sought to reinforce the authority of hereditary rulers and the spiritual dominance of religious institutions, aiming to suppress the revolutionary ideologies that had recently flourished. This conservative approach focused on maintaining an established order and the traditional values of the preceding centuries.

**218.** (A) Were inspired in part by Enlightenment ideas.
Radical political movements in the late eighteenth century were deeply influenced by new philosophical views on individual liberty and the role of government. These ideas challenged traditional authority by emphasizing that power should be based on the consent of the governed and the protection of natural rights. Both revolutions used these concepts to justify their challenges to existing monarchical systems and to build new governing structures.

**219.** (C) The Austrian Empire
The movements for national consolidation in both central and southern Europe in the nineteenth century shared a common obstacle in the influence of a major central European state. This powerful multi-ethnic empire held territory and political control that directly blocked the pursuit of national sovereignty. Overcoming this foreign dominance was essential for the creation of unified nation-states in both regions, leading to several major diplomatic and military confrontations.

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**220.** (D) Involved total mobilization of economy and civilians.
The second truly global conflict was characterized by its unprecedented scale and the involvement of nearly every aspect of national life. Governments exercised total control over production, resources, and labor to support the war effort, while civilian populations became central to both the support and the experience of the conflict. This level of comprehensive mobilization and the widespread impact on society defined the nature of total war.

**221.** (B) Socialism
Social organization often involves structured hierarchies where land control and mutual duties define economic life. While traditional systems focused on local obligations, modern ideologies transitioned toward collective frameworks to address these power dynamics. The evolution of resource management reflects a broad shift from individual land tenure toward centralized or community-based oversight to ensure that societal needs and labor roles are fulfilled.

**222.** (A) Being legally owned as property.
In various historical societies, some individuals held a status that deprived them of all legal

These models represent completely different views on the exercise of political power.

**271.** (D) The Feudal System
Certain political and economic theories emerged as a critique of historical structures where power and land were concentrated in a hereditary elite. These ideologies challenged the rigid social hierarchies and land-based obligations that had traditionally defined human organization. By advocating for collective ownership and the elimination of class privileges, they sought to address the systemic inequalities that had been maintained by centuries of decentralized political control and personal loyalty.

**272.** (B) 20th-century democratic movements.
Radical authoritarian ideologies in the early twentieth century often gained power by utilizing popular mobilization and promising to address the needs of the masses during times of crisis. While these systems eventually suppressed dissent and established total control, their rise was initially fueled by the participation of large segments of the population seeking order and stability. They presented themselves as new and more effective ways of organizing society for the benefit of the nation.

**273.** (C) The Buddhist world
The period of significant religious transformation and intellectual shift in early modern history had far-reaching effects that extended beyond traditional boundaries. This movement challenged established spiritual dogmas and encouraged a more critical evaluation of long-standing beliefs across diverse regions. The resulting shifts in thought and institutional authority disrupted the traditional spiritual unity of many civilizations, contributing to a broader global process of re-evaluating the role of faith and reason in society.

**274.** (D) Fundamentally changed manufacturing and lifestyles.
This term refers to the profound shift from manual labor and animal power to the use of technology and machines for production. This transformation began in the textile and steam power sectors and eventually led to large-scale manufacturing and rapid urbanization. The scale of these changes was so significant that it permanently altered social structures, economic systems, and the daily lives of people, marking a major turning point in modern human history.

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**275.** (A) 18th Century
Significant political upheavals have fundamentally reshaped national identities across different eras. Both a pivotal movement for independence in North America and a radical social transformation in Europe took place during the late seventeen-hundreds. These events challenged traditional authority and introduced modern concepts of representative governance, individual rights, and citizenship, setting the precedent for many future global movements seeking sovereignty and democratic rule throughout the following centuries.

**276.** (B) Vladimir Lenin
The radical political transformation of a major East Asian nation in the mid-twentieth century was influenced by the ideological leadership and revolutionary successes of a prominent northern leader. By adopting and adapting Marxist-Leninist principles, the movement successfully established a socialist state based on the centralized control of the economy and the redistribution of land. This leadership provided the strategic and philosophical framework that guided the country through years of civil war and social restructuring.

**277.** (C) The Congress of Vienna
Following years of continental warfare, European leaders met in the early nineteenth century to restore stability and redefine national boundaries after the final removal of a major imperial leader. Their primary goal was to ensure a balance of power among states while suppressing the radical revolutionary ideals that had recently flourished. This meeting successfully established a new diplomatic order that maintained a conservative and traditional governance structure for many decades.

**278.** (B) “Blood and Iron”
The consolidation of various independent territories into a single, powerful empire was achieved by a pragmatic statesman who emphasized the use of military force and industrial strength. This approach rejected the idea of achieving goals through speeches or

majority votes, instead focusing on the strategic application of power to overcome regional divisions and establish national dominance. The phrase reflects the focused and realistic policy that fundamentally reshaped the continent's political map.

**279.** (C) Austria-Hungary
The settlement following the first global industrial war is often criticized for placing significant responsibility and territory loss on a major multi-ethnic central European empire. By identifying this state as a primary aggressor, the treaty imposed harsh penalties that accelerated its internal decline and eventual dissolution. These punitive measures reflected the desire of the victors to reshape the map and address the nationalist aspirations within the former imperial territories.

**280.** (B) Multi-party democracy
An authoritarian regime in southern Europe initially sought to consolidate power by allowing for a limited and controlled form of political participation from various groups. This strategy aimed to create an appearance of broad support while the central leadership worked to eventually establish total authority over all aspects of public life. Over time, this pluralism was systematically dismantled in favor of a singular, dictatorial power that controlled the nation's policies and citizens.

**281.** (A) First World War
Following the global devastation of the 1940s, international leaders established a major body designed to succeed where earlier attempts at global security had failed. They recognized that the inability to maintain peace following previous massive conflicts had directly led to further instability and aggression. The new organization was designed with greater authority and broader participation to more effectively preserve world order, protect human rights, and prevent the recurrence of large-scale international warfare.

**282.** (B) Small group of noble, privileged families
This form of government is defined by the rule of an elite class, usually distinguished by birthright, wealth, or specific social status. Members of this group hold significant political influence and land, passing their positions down through generations. This structure concentrates power within a few influential families, limiting the participation of the general populace and reflecting a system built upon hereditary privilege and traditional social hierarchy.

**283.** (A) Powerful monarchies and the Renaissance
The dominance of institutional religious authority began to wane as new political and intellectual movements emerged. Stronger central governments sought to assert their own authority over their territories, while a renewed focus on human reason and classical knowledge encouraged critical thinking. Together, these developments shifted the focus toward individual agency and the power of secular states, undermining the traditional spiritual monopoly and political influence that the church had long enjoyed.

**284.** (A) Colonies served mother country interests.
Imperial expansion and early modern economic policies were centered on the belief that a nation's strength depended on controlled global trade. By establishing overseas territories, ruling powers ensured a steady supply of natural resources and exclusive markets for their own goods. This system prioritized the wealth and power of the mother country over the needs of the local populations, ensuring that colonies existed primarily to support the ruling state's economic growth.

**285.** (C) Fascist dictatorships
Major political transformations in the early twentieth century were driven by a widespread rejection of authoritarian and non-representative systems of government. People sought to dismantle regimes that concentrated power in the hands of a few and suppressed individual rights. These revolutions successfully challenged and removed leaders who relied on militarism and total state control, clearing the way for new forms of governance that aimed to address social inequality and national sovereignty during a period of massive global change.

**286.** (B) Nationalist aspirations and Great Power rivalries.
Territorial conflicts in the southeastern part of the continent served as a significant precursor to the first truly global conflict. As emerging

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nations fought to gain independence and land, major European states became increasingly involved in these local disputes to protect their own strategic interests. These regional struggles, fueled by intense national pride and competition, intensified existing rivalries, creating a highly unstable environment where a localized incident could rapidly escalate.

**287.** (D) Divide Italy into more city-states.
The movement to unite fragmented territories on the southern peninsula into a single nation-state was a complex process that involved overcoming significant internal divisions and foreign influence. While some advocated for consolidation, others sought to maintain the traditional autonomy of independent cities and regions. This tension between centralization and regional power defined the struggle for national sovereignty and the eventual development of a unified political identity across the entire diverse region.

**288.** (A) The rise of new nations in Eastern Europe.
The conclusion of the first global industrial conflict fundamentally shifted the world's power structure and redrew the map of the continent. However, the creation of numerous sovereign countries in the eastern regions was already underway as traditional empires collapsed under the pressure of wartime losses and internal nationalist movements. This process of national self-determination was an ongoing development that predated the final peace settlement and the formal end of the conflict.

**289.** (C) Racial theory
While many dictatorial regimes shared authoritarian traits like the suppression of dissent and the use of propaganda, one specific movement was uniquely defined by its commitment to biological hierarchy. This ideology placed the preservation and expansion of a specific ethnic group at the core of all national policy, justifying systematic exclusion and persecution. This focus on racial purity was a central and distinguishing feature that shaped its aggressive internal and external state actions.

**290.** (B) Italy
The immediate trigger for the second truly global conflict involved aggressive military expansion into neighboring territories by an authoritarian power. Following a series of international concessions that failed to satisfy the ambitions of dictatorial states, a specific invasion in late 1939 forced other major nations to honor their mutual defense commitments. This action marked the definitive end of the policy of avoiding war and initiated a period of total global warfare across several continents.

**291.** (D) Social chaos?
The development of a systematic and documented body of statutes is essential for ensuring that governance is based on consistent and public regulations. Without such a framework, society often faces unpredictable and arbitrary rule, where justice is determined by the shifting whims of those in power. This lack of legal clarity can lead to deep-seated instability and social unrest, making a formal code of law a necessary foundation for maintaining order and individual rights.

**292.** (A) Renaissance Italy
In various historical societies, some individuals held a status that deprived them of all legal autonomy and personal rights. This system of involuntary servitude supported large-scale agriculture, urban construction, and domestic life, becoming deeply integrated into the state's economic and social structures during several eras of growth and expansion. The widespread use of this institution shaped the power dynamics and legal developments of major cultural and political centers across the continent for many generations.

**293.** (C) Stopped all trade and commerce permanently.
The catastrophic pandemic of the mid-fourteenth century fundamentally altered the economic landscape by significantly reducing the human population. This massive demographic collapse led to a widespread disruption of production and exchange as labor became scarce and transport was interrupted. These circumstances made it increasingly difficult to maintain traditional trade routes and land-based obligations, ultimately contributing to the decline of the decentralized political structures and economic systems that had long dominated the era.

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**8.** What is the primary significance of the Gurjara inscription of Ashoka found in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) It explicitly mentions 'Ashoka' with his title 'Devanampiya'.
(B) It provides a detailed account of the Kalinga War history.
(C) It identifies Ashoka's queen as Karuvaki in the local region.
(D) It uses the Kharosthi script to communicate with the public.

**9.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Besnagar Garuddhwaja Pillar inscription is a crucial piece of evidence for early Vaishnavism in India.
Reason (R): The inscription records the erection of a Garuda-standard (Garuddhwaja) by the Greek ambassador Heliodorus in honour of Vasudeva.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**10.** The Udayagiri Cave inscription of Chandragupta II is significant for understanding the political extent of the Gupta Empire. In which district of Madhya Pradesh are these caves located?
(A) Vidisha
(B) Raisen
(C) Ujjain
(D) Dhar

**11.** Consider the following statements about inscriptions found in Madhya Pradesh:
1. The Sanchi inscription of the Kushan king Vashishka provides evidence of Kushan influence in the region.
2. The Mandsour inscription of Bandhu Verma was written during the reign of Kumaragupta I, not Chandragupta II.
3. The Panguradiya inscription is another minor rock edict of Ashoka found in the state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**12.** The Mandsour inscription, composed by Vatsabhatti during the time of Kumaragupta I and Bandhu Verma, is famous for its poetic description of what?
(A) The construction of a grand Vishnu temple
(B) The migration and activities of a guild of silk-weavers
(C) The military victories of Samudragupta
(D) The genealogy of the Oulikar dynasty

**13.** Who was the founder of the Gardbhilla dynasty, which ruled in the Ujjain region before being overthrown by the Sakas?
(A) Vikramaditya
(B) Pushyamitra
(C) Gardbhilla
(D) Aparajita

**14.** Consider the following statements regarding historical dynasties:
Statement I: The Naga Dynasty established its power in central India, with key centers at Padmavati (Pawaya), Vidisha, and Mathura.
Statement II: The last Naga king, Ganapatinaga, was defeated by the Gupta emperor Samudragupta.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**15.** The Oulikar dynasty, known for rulers like Yashodharman who defeated the Huna king Mihirakula, had their capital at which of the following places?
(A) Dashapura (Mandsaur)
(B) Vidisha
(C) Eran
(D) Ujjayini

**16.** Which of the following dynasties ruled over the Baghelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh

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# CHAPTER 10

# History of Madhya Pradesh and Freedom Movement

**1.** Which prehistoric period in Madhya Pradesh is primarily characterized by the use of microlithic tools?
(A) Palaeolithic period
(B) Mesolithic period
(C) Neolithic period
(D) Chalcolithic period

**2.** Consider the following statements regarding the Chalcolithic period in Madhya Pradesh:
Statement I: The Chalcolithic period is marked by the first use of copper along with stone tools.
Statement II: Major Chalcolithic sites in Madhya Pradesh include Kayatha, Eran, and Navdatoli.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**3.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about the rock shelters of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Bhimbetka is a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its rock shelters.
(B) Adamgarh rock shelters are located near the city of Hoshangabad.
(C) The rock paintings exclusively depict scenes of royal court life.
(D) Many shelters show evidence of long-term human habitation from the Palaeolithic to the historic period.

**4.** The rock paintings of Madhya Pradesh are a significant source for understanding the life of prehistoric people. What is the most common theme depicted in these paintings?
(A) Agricultural practices and seasonal crop patterns
(B) Architectural construction of temples and stupas
(C) Formal portraits of local kings and queens
(D) Scenes of hunting, dancing, and communal life

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**5.** Which of the following sites in Madhya Pradesh is NOT considered a major rock shelter site?
(A) Bhimbetka
(B) Adamgarh
(C) Navdatoli
(D) Panguradiya

**6.** Match List I with List II regarding prehistoric sites and their associated periods.
List I: (Prehistoric Site)
P. Bhimbetka
Q. Kayatha
R. Adamgarh
S. Eran
List II: (Associated Period)
1. Chalcolithic Culture
2. Mesolithic Evidence
3. Palaeolithic to Mesolithic
4. Chalcolithic and Iron Age
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

**7.** The Rupnath inscription of Ashoka is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Datia
(B) Satna
(C) Sehore
(D) Jabalpur

**294.** (D) The Industrial Revolution?
The period of intellectual and artistic rebirth was characterized by an openness to new ideas and a rejection of traditional spiritual monopolies. Scholars and artists sought to revive classical wisdom and emphasize human potential, moving away from the rigid doctrines of the preceding centuries. This intellectual shift laid the groundwork for future advancements, even as later movements toward machine-based production would fundamentally restructure the social and economic foundations of humanity in entirely new and different ways.

**295.** (C) Industrial Revolution
The transition to machine-based production led to significant social and economic challenges, including poor working conditions and widespread inequality. In response to these difficulties, new ideologies emerged that advocated for the collective ownership of resources to ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth. These movements sought to address the systemic challenges created by the rapid and unregulated growth of industrial capitalism during a period of massive social change.

**296.** (A) Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.
The radical political transformation in late eighteenth-century France introduced transformative ideals but also led to a period of significant internal instability and conflict. This chaos allowed a prominent military leader to consolidate power and establish himself as a supreme ruler. His reign carried revolutionary principles across the continent through a combination of legal reform and extensive warfare, fundamentally reshaping the political foundations of Europe during the early nineteenth century.

**297.** (C) Conservatism and monarchy restoration.
Following years of radical social and political upheaval, European leaders met in the early nineteenth century to restore stability by returning to traditional power structures. They sought to reinforce the authority of hereditary rulers and maintain a balance of power among major states, aiming to suppress the revolutionary ideologies that had recently flourished. This approach focused on maintaining an established order and the traditional values of the preceding centuries across the continent.

**298.** (B) The Ottoman Empire
Strategic and diplomatic tensions in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were driven by the ongoing weakening of a major Mediterranean power and the potential vacuum it would leave. European nations were deeply concerned about the regional balance of power and the control of key territories. This situation led to several regional conflicts and diplomatic summits as Great Powers competed to influence the future of that weakening state and protect their own interests.

**299.** (A) American Revolution of 1776
The global conflict starting in 1914 created immense political pressures that mirrored historic struggles for sovereignty and representative governance. Many movements during this period drew inspiration from earlier successful anti-colonial efforts that occurred in the late eighteenth century. These historical precedents provided a revolutionary template for nations seeking to overthrow autocratic rule and establish independent states amidst widespread wartime instability, fundamentally altering the governing principles and national boundaries across the world.

**300.** (B) Post-WWI democratic order.
The rise of authoritarian regimes and dictatorial powers occurred during a specific window of time following the first major industrial war. Many nations faced significant economic crises and political instability, which radical leaders exploited to gain support. This era was characterized by a rejection of democratic processes and the emergence of regimes based on extreme nationalism and absolute state control over all citizens, reflecting a collapse of the existing international political order.



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during the 5th and 6th centuries AD and were feudatories of the Guptas?
(A) Paribrajaka dynasty
(B) Paribrajaka and Uchchakalpa dynasties
(C) Uchchakalpa dynasty
(D) Oulikar dynasty

**17.** Arrange the following dynasties that ruled parts of Madhya Pradesh in chronological order of their emergence:
1. Parmar dynasty
2. Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri
3. Oulikar dynasty
4. Naga dynasty

Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) 4, 3, 2, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 3, 4, 1, 2
(D) 2, 1, 4, 3

**18.** Identify the correct pair of a Chandela ruler and his significant achievement.
(A) Vidyadhara - Defeated Mahmud of Ghazni's forces
(B) Yasovarman - Construction of the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple
(C) Dhanga - Construction of the Lakshmana Temple at Khajuraho
(D) Paramardi Deva - Defeated Prithviraj Chauhan

**19.** The Parmar dynasty was one of the most significant medieval dynasties of Madhya Pradesh. Who among the following is considered the most illustrious ruler of this dynasty, known for his military prowess and patronage of art and literature?
(A) Siyaka II
(B) Vakpatiraja Munja
(C) Bhoja
(D) Udayaditya

**20.** Which of the following statements about the Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri is incorrect?
(A) Their capital was Tripuri, located near modern-day Jabalpur.
(B) Kokalla I was the founder of the original Kalchuri dynasty.
(C) They remained major political rivals of the Chandelas and Parmars.
(D) They were annexed by the Delhi Sultanate in the 11th century.

**21.** Match List I with List II regarding dynasties and their major centres of power.
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Kalchuri
Q. Parmar
R. Chandela
S. Kachchapaghat
List II: (Major Centre of Power)
1. Jejakabhukti (Bundelkhand)
2. Gwalior
3. Dahala (Tripuri)
4. Malwa (Dhar)

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

**22.** The Tomar dynasty, which ruled Gwalior before the Mughals, is renowned for its patronage of music. Who was the most famous ruler of this dynasty?
(A) Vir Singh Deo
(B) Man Singh Tomar
(C) Dungar Singh
(D) Vikramaditya Tomar

**23.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Faruqi dynasty, which ruled the Nimar region (Khandesh), maintained a significant degree of independence for a considerable period.
Reason (R): Their strategic location between the Sultanates of Gujarat, Malwa, and the Bahmanis allowed them to play a balancing role.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**24.** The Gondwana kingdom, with its capital at Garha-Mandla, reached its zenith under which ruler?

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(A) Badal Bhoi
(B) Pema Falya
(C) Ganjan Singh Korku
(D) Munda Rai

**44.** Tantya Bheel, a significant figure in the tribal resistance against the British, was captured due to the betrayal of an associate. He was an expert in which form of warfare?
(A) Naval combat
(B) Guerrilla warfare
(C) Siege warfare
(D) Conventional open-field battles

**45.** The tribal hero Badal Bhoi, whose martyrdom is commemorated annually in Chhindwara, was associated with which major event of the freedom struggle?
(A) Jhanda Satyagraha
(B) Quit India Movement
(C) Non-Cooperation Movement
(D) Civil Disobedience Movement

**46.** Pema Falya is a celebrated name in the context of which traditional art form of Madhya Pradesh, primarily associated with the Bhil tribe?
(A) Gond painting
(B) Baiga tattooing
(C) Bhil pottery
(D) Pithora painting

**47.** The Sanchi Stupa, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was originally commissioned by which Mauryan emperor?
(A) Ashoka
(B) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Bindusara
(D) Brihadratha

**48.** The famous caves of Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh are renowned for which of the following?
(A) Jaina monastic establishments
(B) Prehistoric rock paintings and shelters
(C) Buddhist stupas and viharas
(D) Elaborate Hindu temple carvings

**49.** Adamgarh hills, located in Hoshangabad, are historically significant for providing the earliest evidence of what in the Indian subcontinent?
(A) Use of iron
(B) Domestication of animals
(C) Cultivation of rice
(D) Coinage system

**50.** Which of the following is NOT a famous fort located in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Mehrangarh Fort
(B) Gwalior Fort
(C) Mandu Fort
(D) Asirgarh Fort

**51.** Arrange the following events from the freedom struggle in Madhya Pradesh in chronological order:
1. Jhanda Satyagraha
2. Bundela Rebellion
3. Jungle Satyagraha in Betul
4. Start of 1857 revolt in Neemuch

Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 1, 2, 4, 3
(C) 4, 2, 3, 1
(D) 2, 1, 4, 3

**52.** The city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh is considered a holy city, situated on the banks of which river?
(A) Narmada
(B) Tapti
(C) Chambal
(D) Shipra

**53.** Which of the following is an identifying characteristic of the Palaeolithic period in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Use of polished stone tools and primitive agriculture
(B) Use of copper and bronze implements for hunting
(C) A hunter-gatherer lifestyle with crude stone tools
(D) Construction of megalithic burials for the elite

**54.** Consider the following statements regarding the rock paintings at Bhimbetka:
Statement I: The rock paintings at Bhimbetka span multiple periods, from the Upper Palaeolithic to the medieval period.
Statement II: The superimposition of paintings,

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(D) Tatya Tope

**35.** Match List I with List II regarding 1857 rebel leaders and their regions of activity.
List I: (1857 Rebel Leader in MP)
P. Sheikh Ramzan
Q. Tatya Tope
R. Shankar Shah
S. Sadat Khan
List II: (Region of Activity)
1. Gwalior / Bundelkhand
2. Mahakoshal (Jabalpur)
3. Mahidpur (Indore)
4. Sagar
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**36.** The Jhanda Satyagraha (Flag Satyagraha) of 1923, which gained national prominence, originated in which city of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Bhopal
(B) Indore
(C) Gwalior
(D) Jabalpur

**37.** What was the primary objective of the Jungle Satyagraha, which took place in various parts of Madhya Pradesh (like Betul and Seoni) during the Civil Disobedience Movement?
(A) To demand the right to hoist the national flag
(B) To protest against the unfair colonial salt tax
(C) To defy restrictive forest laws imposed by the British
(D) To boycott foreign goods and promote indigenous Swadeshi items

**38.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Non-Cooperation Movement received a widespread response in Madhya Pradesh.
Reason (R): Leaders like Prabhakar Dundiraj Jatkar and Seth Govind Das actively mobilized the public for boycotts and hartals in the region.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**39.** The reorganization of Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 1956, was based on the recommendations of which commission?
(A) Simon Commission
(B) Butler Committee
(C) JVP Committee
(D) States Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission)

**40.** Who among the following tribal heroes from Madhya Pradesh was the ruler of Garha-Mandla and was executed by the British along with his son for planning a rebellion in 1857?
(A) Shankar Shah
(B) Bheemaji Nayak
(C) Khajya Nayak
(D) Ganjan Singh Korku

**41.** Consider the following statements about tribal heroes of Madhya Pradesh:
1. Bheemaji Nayak, known as the 'Robin Hood of Nimar', was active during the 1857 revolt.
2. Tantya Bheel was a celebrated Bhil leader who employed guerrilla tactics against the British.
3. Ganjan Singh Korku led the famous Jungle Satyagraha in the Betul district.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**42.** Khajya Nayak, a prominent freedom fighter from the Nimar region, initially worked for the British but later turned against them. What was his role before the rebellion?
(A) A police officer in a cantonment
(B) A tehsildar in the revenue department
(C) A jamadar in the British army
(D) A forest guard

**43.** Which tribal hero of Madhya Pradesh is associated with the 'Turia Jungle Satyagraha' in the Seoni district?

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(A) Sangram Shah
(B) Jadurai
(C) Dalpat Shah
(D) Rani Durgavati

**25.** Consider the following statements about the Princely State of Bhopal:
1. It was founded by Dost Mohammad Khan, an Afghan soldier in the Mughal army.
2. The state was ruled by a succession of female rulers, known as the Begums of Bhopal, for over a century.
3. The state willingly merged with the Indian Union immediately after independence in 1947.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**26.** Who was the founder of the Holkar dynasty of Indore?
(A) Malhar Rao Holkar
(B) Ahilyabai Holkar
(C) Yashwant Rao Holkar I
(D) Tukoji Rao Holkar II

**27.** The Sindhiya (Scindia) dynasty established its capital at Gwalior after shifting from which earlier center?
(A) Indore
(B) Dhar
(C) Pune
(D) Ujjain

**28.** The Bundelkhand princely state was established by the Bundela Rajputs. Who is considered the most prominent and powerful early ruler of the Orchha kingdom?
(A) Sohanpal
(B) Rudra Pratap Singh
(C) Bharti Chand
(D) Chhatrasal

**29.** The principality of Baghelkhand, with its capital at Rewa, was founded by which of the following?
(A) Chandela princes after their decline
(B) Gond chiefs from Garha-Mandla
(C) Baghel Rajputs migrating from Gujarat
(D) Parmar feudatories from Malwa

**30.** Which Holkar ruler famously challenged the British and was a key figure in the Second Anglo-Maratha War?
(A) Malhar Rao Holkar
(B) Ahilyabai Holkar
(C) Tukoji Rao Holkar II
(D) Yashwant Rao Holkar I

**31.** Consider the following statements regarding Rani Durgavati:
Statement I: Rani Durgavati of Gondwana fought a valiant battle against the Mughal forces led by Asaf Khan.
Statement II: She chose death over dishonor when defeat was imminent, becoming a symbol of resistance.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**32.** The Bundela Rebellion of 1842 was a major uprising against the British in the Sagar and Narmada Territories. Who was the primary leader of this rebellion from the Hirdeshah of Heerapur?
(A) Jujhar Singh
(B) Hirde Shah
(C) Chhatrasal
(D) Madhukar Shah

**33.** Which of the following was the immediate trigger for the start of the 1857 freedom struggle in Madhya Pradesh, beginning at the Neemuch cantonment?
(A) The execution of Mangal Pandey
(B) The start of the rebellion at Meerut
(C) The refusal of soldiers to use the new greased cartridges
(D) The annexation of the Nagpur kingdom

**34.** Who led the rebellion of 1857 in the Mandla region and was a ruler of the Ramgarh state?
(A) Rani Avantibai
(B) Rani Lakshmibai
(C) Rani Durgavati

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where newer paintings are drawn over older ones, helps in establishing a relative chronology.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**55.** Match List I with List II regarding inscriptions and their locations.
List I: (Inscription)
P. Gurjara
Q. Rupnath
R. Panguradiya
S. Sanchi
List II: (Location in MP)
1. Raisen District
2. Sehore District
3. Datia District
4. Jabalpur (Katni) District
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

**56.** The Besnagar Garuddhwaja Pillar inscription is written in which script?
(A) Brahmi
(B) Kharosthi
(C) Aramaic
(D) Greek

**57.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Chandela dynasty is famed for the magnificent temples at Khajuraho.
Reason (R): The Chandelas constructed these temples primarily to serve as defensive fortresses against invading armies.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**58.** The concept of the 'Navaratnas' or nine gems in a royal court is famously associated with Chandragupta II. The Udayagiri cave inscriptions near Vidisha belong to his reign and attest to his presence in the region. These inscriptions primarily depict themes related to which religious tradition?
(A) Vaishnavism and Shaivism
(B) Monastic Buddhist traditions
(C) Svetambara and Digambara Jainism
(D) The ascetic Ajivika sect

**59.** Which dynasty, ruling from Tripuri (near Jabalpur), was a major power in central India and is often referred to as the Kalchuris of Tripuri or the Haihaya dynasty?
(A) Chandela
(B) Parmar
(C) Gurjara-Pratihara
(D) Kalchuri

**60.** Consider the following statements regarding the Parmar dynasty:
1. The dynasty was founded by a ruler named Upendra (Krishnaraja).
2. Their capital was initially at Ujjain and later shifted to Dhar.
3. Raja Bhoj, the most famous Parmar king, wrote several texts on architecture, grammar, and poetry.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**61.** Identify the incorrect pair of a dynasty and its associated region/capital in Madhya Pradesh.
(A) Oulikar dynasty - Dashapura (Mandsaur)
(B) Uchchakalpa dynasty - Uchchakalpa (Unchehara)
(C) Naga Dynasty - Malwa only
(D) Paribrajaka dynasty - Bundelkhand

**62.** Ahilyabai Holkar, the celebrated ruler of the Holkar state, is remembered for her administrative skills and extensive public works. Which city served as her capital?
(A) Indore

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**100.** The reorganization of Madhya Pradesh in 1956 led to the formation of the new state by merging:
(A) Only the territories of Central Provinces and Berar.
(B) Only Madhya Bharat and Vindhya Pradesh.
(C) Only the Hindi-speaking districts of Bombay and Hyderabad states.
(D) Central Provinces and Berar, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, and the Bhopal state.

**101.** The legacy of Tantya Bheel (Tantya Mama) is most profoundly associated with which tribal community of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Gond
(B) Korku
(C) Bhil
(D) Baiga

**102.** Which cave complex in Madhya Pradesh, other than Bhimbetka, contains significant prehistoric rock paintings and is located in the Raisen district?
(A) Udayagiri Caves
(B) Kathotiya Caves
(C) Mada Caves
(D) Bagh Caves

**103.** From a historical perspective, what is the most significant contribution of the rock paintings found in sites like Bhimbetka and Adamgarh?
(A) They provide a written record of ancient dynastic genealogies.
(B) They are the only evidence of foreign trade in prehistoric times.
(C) They prove the existence of a single, unified religion in India.
(D) They offer a visual narrative of prehistoric social and cultural life.

**104.** Which of the following is an INCORRECT pair of an inscription and its associated ruler/ dynasty?
(A) Mandsour Inscription - Samudragupta
(B) Gurjara Inscription - Ashoka
(C) Besnagar Garuddhwaja Pillar - Heliodorus (Indo-Greek)
(D) Udayagiri Cave Inscription - Chandragupta II

**105.** The Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri engaged in a tripartite struggle for the control of Kannauj and the Ganga valley. Who were their main adversaries from the east and west in this struggle?
(A) Cholas and Chalukyas
(B) Rashtrakutas and Satavahanas
(C) Palas and Gurjara-Pratiharas
(D) Pandyas and Cheras

**106.** The Faruqi dynasty ruled over the region of Khandesh, with its capital at Burhanpur. This dynasty was eventually annexed by which Mughal emperor?
(A) Akbar
(B) Babur
(C) Humayun
(D) Aurangzeb

**107.** Which Bundela ruler established the town of Orchha and made it his capital in the 16th century?
(A) Sohanpal Bundela
(B) Jujhar Singh
(C) Champat Rai
(D) Rudra Pratap Singh

NODIA

**108.** The 'Begums of Bhopal' were a series of four women rulers who governed the state of Bhopal. Who was the first Begum to rule the state?
(A) Sikandar Begum
(B) Qudsia Begum (Gohar Begum)
(C) Shah Jahan Begum
(D) Sultan Jahan Begum

**109.** During the Non-Cooperation movement in Madhya Pradesh, a major incident of defiance was the 'Punjab Mail Massacre'. Where did this event take take place?
(A) At Jabalpur railway station
(B) Between Itarsi and Betul
(C) At Khandwa railway station
(D) In the city of Gwalior

**110.** Which of the following is the most accurate description of the 'Jungle Satyagraha' in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) A movement by farmers to protest against high land revenue.
(B) A campaign to encourage the planting of trees in barren lands.

**72.** Raja Chhatrasal, a celebrated Bundela chief, fought for independence against which imperial power?
(A) The Mughal Empire under Aurangzeb
(B) The British East India Company
(C) The Delhi Sultanate
(D) The Gupta Empire

**73.** The 'Charan Paduka Massacre' in Madhya Pradesh, often called the 'Jallianwala Bagh of MP', occurred during which phase of the freedom struggle?
(A) Revolt of 1857
(B) Non-Cooperation Movement
(C) Civil Disobedience Movement
(D) Quit India Movement

**74.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): Bheemaji Nayak actively participated in the 1857 revolt and was a major threat to the British in the Nimar region.
Reason (R): He was a Bhil leader who was well-versed in the region's topography and effectively used guerrilla tactics.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**75.** The famous 'Jahaz Mahal' and 'Hindola Mahal' are located within the fort complex of which historic city in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Gwalior
(B) Orchha
(C) Chanderi
(D) Mandu

**76.** Which of the following correctly defines the Mesolithic period in the context of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) The final phase of the Stone Age, marked by the beginning of agriculture.
(B) The transitional period between Palaeolithic and Neolithic.
(C) The earliest period of human history, characterized by large, crude stone tools.
(D) The period marked by the simultaneous use of copper and stone.

**77.** Consider the following statements about prehistoric rock art in Madhya Pradesh:
1. The earliest paintings are often in green and dark red.
2. Later period paintings show the use of white and yellow pigments.
3. The paintings provide no evidence of domesticated animals.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**78.** Which inscription from the time of Chandragupta II mentions his military campaign in the eastern Malwa region and is located in the Udayagiri caves?
(A) The Sanchi Stone inscription
(B) The Mandsour inscription of Bandhu Verma
(C) The Besnagar Garuddhwaja Pillar inscription
(D) The Udayagiri Cave inscription of Virasena Saba

**79.** The Abheer (Abhira) dynasty ruled in the region between the Tapti and Narmada rivers. Who is considered the founder of this dynasty?
(A) Ishwarsena
(B) Nagnabhatta
(C) Vindhyashakti
(D) Pravarasena

**80.** The Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty was a major imperial power in northern India. Which of their rulers conquered Kannauj and made it their capital, extending their influence over parts of modern Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Vatsaraja
(B) Nagabhata II
(C) Nagabhata I
(D) Mihira Bhoja

**81.** Arrange the following rulers of the Parmar dynasty in chronological order:
1. Bhoja
2. Siyaka II
3. Vakpatiraja Munja
4. Udayaditya

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Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

**82.** In the context of the princely states of Madhya Pradesh, what was the primary reason for the conflict between the Holkars and the Sindhias in the late 18th and early 19th centuries?
(A) Struggle for dominance within the Maratha Confederacy
(B) Dispute over regional religious practices
(C) Alliance with opposing European powers
(D) Territorial disputes over the Malwa region

**83.** The Swadeshi Movement in Madhya Pradesh, inspired by the partition of Bengal, primarily focused on:
(A) Armed rebellion against British officers
(B) No-tax campaigns in rural communities
(C) Boycott of foreign goods and promotion of indigenous products
(D) Direct defiance of forest laws

**84.** Who led the rebellion of 1857 in the Mhow cantonment near Indore?
(A) Sheikh Ramzan
(B) Tatya Tope
(C) Bheemaji Nayak
(D) Saadat Khan

**85.** Raghunath Shah, who was executed by the British in 1857, belonged to which historic dynasty of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Parmar dynasty
(B) Chandela dynasty
(C) Gond dynasty of Garha-Mandla
(D) Kalchuri dynasty

**86.** The famous 'Chaturbhuj Temple' and 'Ram Raja Temple' are located in which historical town of Madhya Pradesh, once the capital of the Bundela kingdom?
(A) Khajuraho
(B) Orchha
(C) Mandu
(D) Chanderi

**87.** Which of the following prehistoric sites in Madhya Pradesh has yielded evidence of human activity from the Lower Palaeolithic period through to the early historic period, making it one of the longest-inhabited rock shelter complexes?
(A) Kayatha
(B) Eran
(C) Navdatoli
(D) Bhimbetka

**88.** The inscription of the Kushan king Vashishka found at Sanchi is significant because it:
(A) Records a donation to the Buddhist Sangha
(B) Describes military victories over the Satavahanas
(C) Announces the official adoption of Buddhism
(D) Details the administration of the Kushan empire

**89.** Consider the following statements regarding historical music and figures:
Statement I: The Tomar ruler Man Singh of Gwalior was a great patron of Dhrupad, a genre of Hindustani classical music.
Statement II: His court musician, Tansen, later became one of the Navaratnas in Akbar's court.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

NODIA

**90.** The city of Bhopal remained an independent princely state until after India's independence. In which year did it formally merge with the Union of India?
(A) 1949
(B) 1947
(C) 1948
(D) 1950

**91.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Jungle Satyagraha was a significant and unique aspect of the Civil

Disobedience Movement in the Central Provinces and Berar (modern-day MP).
Reason (R): The movement directly addressed the grievances of tribal and forest-dwelling communities whose traditional rights were curtailed by British forest laws.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**92.** Ganjan Singh Korku is a celebrated tribal hero primarily remembered for his leadership in the:
(A) Revolt of 1857 in Nimar.
(B) Ghoda Dongri Jungle Satyagraha in Betul.
(C) Jhanda Satyagraha in Jabalpur.
(D) Quit India Movement in Mandla.

**93.** The historical site of Adamgarh is not only famous for its rock shelters but also for providing some of the earliest evidence of a specific human activity alongside hunting. What is this activity?
(A) Pottery making
(B) Metal smelting
(C) Animal domestication
(D) Writing system

**94.** Which of the following historical sites in Madhya Pradesh is known for its massive Jain statues, including the 84-feet tall statue of the first Tirthankara, Adinath?
(A) Sanchi
(B) Udayagiri
(C) Sonagiri
(D) Bawangaja

**95.** The Neolithic period in Madhya Pradesh, representing the 'New Stone Age', is primarily identified by which of the following technological and economic shifts?
(A) The beginning of agriculture and animal domestication
(B) The first controlled use of fire and stone chopping tools
(C) The development of microlithic tools for hunting
(D) The introduction of iron for making implements

**96.** Consider the following statements about the major inscriptions of Madhya Pradesh:
1. The Gurjara inscription is the only Ashokan edict in MP that mentions his personal name.
2. The Besnagar Pillar inscription was set up by a Shunga king.
3. The Mandsour inscription of Bandhu Verma praises a guild of horse traders.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**97.** Match List I with List II regarding dynasties and their key rulers.
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Oulikar
Q. Paribrajaka
R. Uchchakalpa
S. Naga
List II: (Key Ruler)
1. Jayanatha
2. Hastin
3. Ganapatinaga
4. Yashodharman
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

**98.** The 'City of Joy', Mandu, is filled with remarkable Afghan architecture. It was the capital of which independent sultanate?
(A) Sultanate of Malwa
(B) Sultanate of Gujarat
(C) Bahmani Sultanate
(D) Faruqi Sultanate of Khandesh

**99.** Rani Avantibai, the queen of Ramgarh, became a martyr fighting the British in 1858. Her struggle is comparable to that of which other famous queen of the 1857 revolt?
(A) Rani Chennamma of Kittur
(B) Rani Padmini of Chittor
(C) Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi
(D) Rani Durgavati of Gondwana

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(D) 1, 2 and 3

**119.** After the start of the 1857 revolt in Neemuch on June 3rd, the rebellion quickly spread to other parts of Madhya Pradesh. Which was the next major center to revolt?
(A) Jabalpur
(B) Sagar
(C) Mandla
(D) Gwalior

**120.** Which tribal hero from the Nimar region, along with Bheemaji Nayak, played a crucial role in the 1857 uprising and was known for plundering British treasuries?
(A) Khajya Nayak
(B) Ganjan Singh Korku
(C) Badal Bhoi
(D) Pema Falya

**121.** The great Stupa at Sanchi is architecturally unique. What is the name of the hemispherical dome structure that forms the main body of the stupa?
(A) Torana
(B) Harmika
(C) Anda
(D) Chhatra

**122.** The transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic period in Madhya Pradesh is best evidenced by:
(A) The emergence of pottery and ground/polished stone tools.
(B) The sudden disappearance of all stone tools.
(C) The first appearance of rock paintings.
(D) The exclusive use of copper implements.

**123.** The Mandsour inscription is a panegyric (prashasti) for which ruler, although it was composed during the time of Kumaragupta I?
(A) It does not praise any ruler, only a guild of silk-weavers.
(B) It praises the local governor Bandhuvarman.
(C) It praises the military achievements of Chandragupta II.
(D) It praises the Sun God, for whom a temple was built.

**124.** The Naga dynasty of the 3rd-4th century AD had its main centers of power at Vidisha, Kantipuri, Mathura and which other significant site in modern Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Eran
(B) Padmavati (Pawaya)
(C) Ujjain
(D) Tripuri

**125.** The Tomar dynasty of Gwalior reached its cultural zenith under Man Singh Tomar. His palace in the Gwalior Fort is a famous example of Rajput architecture. What is this palace called?
(A) Jahangir Mahal
(B) Gujari Mahal
(C) Man Mandir Palace
(D) Jahaz Mahal

**126.** Match List I with List II regarding freedom struggle events and their associated places.
List I: (Freedom Struggle Event in MP)
P. Jhanda Satyagraha
Q. Charan Paduka Massacre
R. Jungle Satyagraha (Ganjan Singh Korku)
S. Revolt of Saadat Khan (1857)
List II: (Associated Place)
1. Chhatarpur
2. Betul (Ghoda Dongri)
3. Mhow
4. Jabalpur
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**127.** The reorganization of Madhya Pradesh in 1956 was a direct consequence of the policy of:
(A) Creating states based on linguistic lines.
(B) Creating states based on administrative convenience.
(C) Merging all princely states into larger provinces.
(D) Dividing states based on economic viability.

**128.** What was the fate of Shankar Shah and his son Raghunath Shah for their role in the 1857 rebellion?
(A) They were exiled to the Andaman Islands.
(B) They were tied to a cannon and blown away.
(C) They were hanged publicly in Jabalpur city.

NODIA

(C) An armed uprising of tribal communities to reclaim their lands.
(D) A symbolic protest involving cutting grass to defy forest laws.

**111.** The tribal freedom fighter Bheemaji Nayak, who was active in the Barwani region, is often compared to which other contemporary leader of the 1857 revolt due to his guerrilla tactics?
(A) Tatya Tope
(B) Kunwar Singh
(C) Nana Saheb
(D) Bahadur Shah Zafar

**112.** The Bagh Caves, located in the Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, are famous for their mural paintings which are similar in style to those found at:
(A) Bhimbetka
(B) Ajanta Caves
(C) Ellora Caves
(D) Udayagiri Caves

**113.** The Palaeolithic period is broadly divided into three phases: Lower, Middle, and Upper. In Madhya Pradesh, tools from all three phases have been found extensively in which river valley?
(A) Chambal Valley
(B) Narmada Valley
(C) Shipra Valley
(D) Betwa Valley

**114.** The Sanchi Stone inscription from the Gupta period is important as it mentions a donation for the feeding of monks and the lighting of a lamp at the great stupa. This indicates:
(A) Continued patronage of Buddhist sites under Vaishnavite rulers
(B) The steady decline of Buddhist influence during the Gupta era
(C) The forceful conversion of Buddhist sites into Hindu temples
(D) The shifting of the Gupta capital to the Sanchi region

**115.** Consider the following statements regarding historical dynasties:
Statement I: The Paribrajaka and Uchchakalpa dynasties ruled in the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand regions respectively.
Statement II: Both dynasties acknowledged the suzerainty of the Gupta Empire in their inscriptions.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**116.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): Raja Bhoj of the Parmar dynasty is known as 'Kaviraj' and is credited with authoring numerous books on varied subjects.
Reason (R): His most famous work, the 'Samarangana Sutradhara', is a treatise on statecraft and military strategy.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**117.** Who was the founder of the Sindhiya (Scindia) dynasty, a prominent Maratha clan that later established its rule in Gwalior?
(A) Mahadji Scindia
(B) Daulat Rao Scindia
(C) Ranoji Scindia
(D) Jayajirao Scindia

**118.** Consider the following statements about the Bundela Rebellion (1842):
1. It was primarily a revolt by Bundela landlords against the British revenue policies.
2. The rebellion was completely successful in ousting the British from the Saugor-Nerbudda territories.
3. Madhukar Shah and Jawahar Singh Bundela were key leaders of this rebellion.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only

NODIA

**140.** The rock shelters of Bhimbetka were discovered by which renowned archaeologist?
(A) H.D. Sankalia
(B) V.S. Wakankar
(C) R.D. Banerji
(D) Alexander Cunningham

**141.** The site of Navdatoli, a major Chalcolithic settlement on the banks of the Narmada, was excavated by:
(A) V.S. Wakankar
(B) B.B. Lal
(C) H.D. Sankalia
(D) Mortimer Wheeler

**142.** The Gurjara inscription of Ashoka is crucial for Ashokan studies primarily because:
(A) It is the longest of all Ashokan inscriptions.
(B) It mentions Ashoka's conversion to Buddhism.
(C) It is the only inscription written in the Greek language in India.
(D) It contains the name 'Ashoka' along with his title 'Piyadasi'.

**143.** Consider the following statements regarding the Heliodorus pillar:
Statement I: The Heliodorus pillar at Besnagar is dedicated to the deity Vasudeva.
Statement II: The inscription on the pillar indicates that Heliodorus, a Greek, had become a Bhagavata (a devotee of Vishnu).
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**144.** The Oulikar dynasty of Dashapura (Mandsaur) is best known for which ruler who defeated the Huna invader Mihirakula?
(A) Bandhuvarman
(B) Yashodharman
(C) Naravarman
(D) Adityavarman

**145.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Kachchapaghata dynasty ruled from Gwalior and were patrons of art and architecture, responsible for some of the temples in Gwalior fort.
Reason (R): They were an independent imperial power who constantly defeated the Gurjara-Pratiharas.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**146.** Consider the following statements about the Holkar state:
1. Malhar Rao Holkar founded the dynasty and established its prominence in Malwa.
2. Ahilyabai Holkar moved the capital from Indore to Maheshwar.
3. The Holkars were consistently loyal allies of the British from the very beginning.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**147.** Mahadji Scindia was the most powerful ruler of the Scindia dynasty. He played a crucial role in post-Panipat Maratha politics by:
(A) Forming a permanent alliance with the Nizam against the British.
(B) Annexing the Holkar state to unify Malwa under Scindia rule.
(C) Establishing Maratha supremacy and controlling the Mughal Emperor.
(D) Shifting the Scindia capital to Pune to oversee the Peshwa.

**148.** The city of Bhopal was founded by Dost Mohammad Khan, an Afghan mercenary, during the decline of which empire?
(A) Gupta Empire
(B) Delhi Sultanate
(C) Maratha Empire
(D) Mughal Empire

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(D) They escaped to continue the forest revolt.

**129.** The Stupas of Bharhut, though now mostly in museums, were originally located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Raisen
(B) Satna
(C) Vidisha
(D) Rewa

**130.** Among the holy cities of Madhya Pradesh, which one is famous for hosting the Simhastha (Kumbh Mela) once every 12 years?
(A) Ujjain
(B) Orchha
(C) Amarkantak
(D) Omkareshwar

**131.** The term 'Chalcolithic' refers to a period where:
(A) only stone tools were used.
(B) iron was the primary metal for tool making.
(C) copper and stone were used concurrently.
(D) humans were nomadic hunter-gatherers.

**132.** The Sanchi inscription of Kushan king Vashishka demonstrates:
(A) The complete defeat of the Satavahanas by the Kushans.
(B) The Kushan adoption of the Brahmi script for all their inscriptions.
(C) A matrimonial alliance between the Kushans and the Guptas.
(D) The extension of Kushan political influence into the Malwa region.

**133.** The Uchchakalpa dynasty, feudatories of the Guptas, issued copper-plate grants that are a major source of their history. Which ruler of this dynasty is most known from these grants?
(A) Jayanatha
(B) Hastin
(C) Both Jayanatha and Hastin
(D) Sarvanatha

**134.** Vidyadhara, the Chandela king, is celebrated in history for successfully resisting the invasions of which Turkic conqueror?
(A) Muhammad Ghori
(B) Mahmud of Ghazni
(C) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
(D) Iltutmish

**135.** Chronologically arrange the following rulers of major dynasties of Madhya Pradesh:
1. Raja Bhoj (Parmar)
2. Man Singh Tomar (Tomar)
3. Yashodharman (Oulikar)
4. Dhanga (Chandela)

Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) 3, 4, 1, 2
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 2, 1, 4, 3

NODIA

**136.** The Gondwana state under Rani Durgavati was attacked by the Mughal army in 1564. Who was the Mughal emperor at that time?
(A) Akbar
(B) Babur
(C) Humayun
(D) Jahangir

**137.** Which leader from Madhya Pradesh was prominently associated with the Jhanda Satyagraha in Nagpur and Jabalpur, leading to his arrest?
(A) Seth Govind Das
(B) Ravi Shankar Shukla
(C) All leaders listed above
(D) Subhadra Kumari Chauhan

**138.** Which of the following statements is INCORRECT regarding the freedom struggle in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) The Jhanda Satyagraha of 1923 failed nationally.
(B) The 1857 revolt began in Neemuch on 3rd June 1857.
(C) Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh was a key figure in the 1857 revolt.
(D) The Jungle Satyagraha was part of the wider Civil Disobedience Movement.

**139.** Tantya Bheel's activities against the British were concentrated in which geographical region of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Baghelkhand
(B) Bundelkhand
(C) Mahakoshal
(D) Malwa and Nimar

(B) Gwalior
(C) Ujjain
(D) Maheshwar

**63.** The Treaty of Gwalior (1817) and the Treaty of Mandsaur (1818) were significant events that established British supremacy over which two major princely states of Madhya Pradesh, respectively?
(A) Sindhiya and Holkar
(B) Holkar and Bhopal
(C) Bhopal and Rewa
(D) Sindhiya and Bundelkhand

**64.** Which of the following events was NOT a part of the freedom struggle in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Swadeshi movement
(B) Chauri Chaura incident
(C) Jhanda Satyagrah
(D) Civil disobedience movement

**65.** The execution of Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah by the British in 1857 was a pivotal event that intensified the rebellion in which region of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Malwa
(B) Mahakoshal (Gondwana)
(C) Nimar
(D) Baghelkhand

**66.** The historic site of Eran in Madhya Pradesh is particularly famous for an inscription that provides one of the earliest epigraphic evidences of what practice?
(A) Sati
(B) Jauhar
(C) Royal consecration
(D) Land grants to Brahmanas

**67.** Which of the following best describes the Chalcolithic cultures of Madhya Pradesh like Kayatha and Malwa culture?
(A) Urban civilizations with large-scale fortifications
(B) Exclusively pastoral communities with no agriculture
(C) Farming communities with pottery and copper use
(D) Nomadic hunter-gatherer societies using only stone tools

**68.** The Panguradiya inscription of Ashoka in the Sehore district is categorized as a:
(A) Major Rock Edict
(B) Pillar Edict
(C) Cave Inscription
(D) Minor Rock Edict

**69.** Consider the following statements regarding the Sanchi Stone inscription:
Statement I: The Sanchi Stone inscription of the time of Chandragupta II mentions a grant made by the Gupta officer Amrakardava.
Statement II: The inscription suggests a strong Gupta administrative presence and control over the Sanchi region.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**70.** The Kachchapaghata dynasty, which ruled in the Gwalior, Dubkund, and Narwar regions, were initially feudatories of which major power?
(A) Rashtrakutas
(B) Gurjara-Pratiharas
(C) Palas
(D) Parmars

**71.** Match List I with List II regarding princely states and their rulers.
List I: (Princely State)
P. Gondvana
Q. Sindhiya
R. Holkar
S. Bhopal
List II: (Prominent Ruler)
1. Mahadji Sindhia
2. Shah Jahan Begum
3. Rani Durgavati
4. Ahilyabai Holkar
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

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**149.** The Bundela Rebellion of 1842 in the Saugor-Nerbudda territories was a precursor to the larger 1857 revolt. It was primarily a protest against:
(A) The introduction of the Doctrine of Lapse.
(B) The mandatory use of new greased cartridges.
(C) High revenue assessments and British land policies.
(D) The imposition of heavy taxes on religious pilgrimage.

**150.** Who was the ruler of the princely state of Rewa who helped the British during the revolt of 1857?
(A) Gulab Singh
(B) Raghuraj Singh
(C) Martand Singh
(D) Venkat Raman Singh

**151.** Which of the following is a prominent freedom fighter from the Nimar region?
(A) Rani Avantibai
(B) Tatya Tope
(C) Bheemaji Nayak
(D) Raja Chhatrasal

**152.** The Admagarh rock shelters are significant for providing the earliest evidence of animal domestication in India, dating back to which period?
(A) Mesolithic
(B) Palaeolithic
(C) Neolithic
(D) Chalcolithic

**153.** What is the primary subject matter of the majority of rock paintings from the Mesolithic period found in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Depictions of agricultural scenes and permanent settlements.
(B) Portraits of kings and inscriptions in Brahmi script.
(C) Scenes of group hunting, fishing, and dancing.
(D) Geometrical patterns and abstract symbols only.

**154.** Match List I with List II regarding historical sites and their districts.
List I: (Historical Site)
P. Bhimbetka
Q. Besnagar
R. Adamgarh
S. Eran
List II: (District)
1. Sagar
2. Hoshangabad (Narmadapuram)
3. Vidisha
4. Raisen
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

**155.** Which Ashokan inscription in Madhya Pradesh is located on the Kaimur hills near a village called Rupnath?
(A) Gurjara
(B) Sanchi
(C) Panguradiya
(D) Rupnath Minor Rock Edict

**156.** The Udayagiri Cave inscription mentions Chandragupta II's minister Virasena Saba, who accompanied the king on his campaign. This provides direct evidence of:
(A) The decline of the Gupta empire.
(B) The Gupta king's personal involvement in the conquest of Malwa.
(C) A conflict between Chandragupta II and his minister.
(D) The adoption of Jainism by the Gupta court.

**157.** The Parmar king Bhoja was a polymath. His work 'Samarangana Sutradhara' is an encyclopedic work on which subject?
(A) Classical Music
(B) Medicine and Surgery
(C) Architecture and Town Planning
(D) Grammar and Poetry

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**158.** Consider the following statements regarding the Kalchuri dynasty:
Statement I: The Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri was also known as the Haihaya dynasty.
Statement II: The founder of this dynasty was Kokalla I, who established his power in the Dahala region.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are

(D) The Mahakoshal region

**198.** Pema Falya is a contemporary artist associated with the revival and recognition of which tribal art form?
(A) Gond Painting
(B) Pithora Painting
(C) Bharewa metal craft
(D) Baiga Tattooing

**199.** The archaeological site of Kayatha, located near Ujjain, is considered one of the earliest Chalcolithic sites in India. What is its most distinguishing feature?
(A) The presence of massive stone fortifications.
(B) The earliest evidence of rice cultivation.
(C) A large number of Ashokan edicts.
(D) A unique, sturdy red-slipped ware known as Kayatha Ware.

**200.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Naga dynasty posed a significant challenge to the rising power of the Guptas in the 4th century AD.
Reason (R): Samudragupta's Allahabad Pillar Inscription explicitly mentions the uprooting of several Naga kings, including Ganapatinaga.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**201.** Which dynasty ruled from Dashapura (Mandsaur) and is known for its ruler who erected a victory pillar commemorating his defeat of the Hunas?
(A) Abheer dynasty
(B) Kalchuri dynasty
(C) Oulikar dynasty
(D) Paribrajaka dynasty

**202.** What was the name of the kingdom ruled by the Chandela dynasty, corresponding to the modern Bundelkhand region?
(A) Jejakabhukti
(B) Dahala
(C) Avanti
(D) Anupa

**203.** Match List I with List II regarding 1857 leaders and their titles or descriptions.
List I: (1857 Leader)
P. Rani Avantibai
Q. Sheikh Ramzan
R. Shankar Shah
S. Sadat Khan
List II: (Title/Description)
1. Rebel leader from Mhow Cantonment
2. Queen of Ramgarh
3. Gond king of Garha-Mandla
4. Leader of the Sagar garrison uprising
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

**204.** Which of the following was the most significant outcome of the Jhanda Satyagraha of 1923?
(A) The British government immediately granted India independence.
(B) It made the Tricolour a national symbol of the freedom struggle.
(C) The Simon Commission was successfully boycotted in the state.
(D) The forest laws were immediately repealed in the Central Province.

**205.** Before its reorganization in 1956, the state of Madhya Pradesh was divided into four parts: Part A, B, C, and the state of Bhopal. Which part was known as the Central Provinces and Berar?
(A) Part B
(B) Part C
(C) Part A
(D) It was not part of any of the above.

**206.** Khajya Nayak and Bheemaji Nayak, the two prominent Bhil leaders of the 1857 revolt, were active in the Nimar region. They are often referred to as the:
(A) 'Swords of Malwa'
(B) 'Lions of Gondwana'
(C) 'Protectors of Baghelkhand'
(D) 'Heroes of Nimar'

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**169.** The historical site of Pawaya in Gwalior district is identified with which ancient city, a capital of the Naga kings?
(A) Ujjayini
(B) Dashapura
(C) Padmavati
(D) Tripuri

**170.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The Chandela ruler Vidyadhara is noted for his conflict with Mahmud of Ghazni.
Reason (R): Historical accounts suggest that Vidyadhara organized a confederacy of Indian rulers and successfully repelled Mahmud's forces, forcing him to retreat.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**171.** The Kachchapaghata dynasty is credited with the construction of which magnificent temple inside the Gwalior Fort?
(A) Teli Ka Mandir
(B) Kandariya Mahadeva Temple
(C) Lakshmana Temple
(D) Sas-Bahu Temple (Sahastrabahu Temple)

**172.** Who among the following was NOT a ruler of the Holkar dynasty?
(A) Malhar Rao
(B) Mahadji
(C) Yashwant Rao
(D) Ahilyabai

**173.** The state of Gondwana, ruled by the Garha-Katanga kingdom, covered a vast territory. What was its capital during the reign of Rani Durgavati?
(A) Mandla
(B) Ramnagar
(C) Chauragarh
(D) Garha

**174.** In the context of the 1857 revolt in Madhya Pradesh, who was the leader of the rebellion in Sagar and the surrounding region?
(A) Tatya Tope
(B) Kunwar Singh
(C) Sadat Khan
(D) Sheikh Ramzan

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**175.** The Jhanda Satyagraha of 1923 began in Jabalpur but gained national momentum when the All India Congress Committee decided to continue the struggle in which other city?
(A) Nagpur
(B) Delhi
(C) Bombay
(D) Calcutta

**176.** What was the 'pagdi', in the context of Tantya Bheel's methods?
(A) A special turban he wore for disguise.
(B) A system of levying tax for distribution to the poor.
(C) His personal gang of loyal followers.
(D) The specialized guerrilla tactic of surprise attacks.

**177.** The 'Teli ka Mandir' in Gwalior Fort is unique in its architectural style. What is its most distinguishing feature?
(A) It is built entirely of marble.
(B) It has a Dravidian style shikhara on a North Indian base.
(C) It has no idol and is dedicated to an unknown deity.
(D) It is a circular temple, similar to the one in Mitawali.

**178.** The site of Eran, in Sagar district, has yielded a continuous cultural sequence from the Chalcolithic period to the Gupta period. What important structure from the Gupta era is found here?
(A) A massive stone statue of Varaha (the boar incarnation of Vishnu)
(B) A large Buddhist Stupa
(C) The remains of a Roman trading post
(D) A Mauryan pillar edict

**179.** The rock paintings of Madhya Pradesh, especially from the later periods, depict:
(A) Only hunting scenes.
(B) Only geometric patterns.
(C) Scenes involving warriors on horseback, battles, and religious symbols.

(C) The Kushans
(D) The Indo-Greeks

**243.** The Tomar ruler Man Singh of Gwalior is credited with the invention of which musical style?
(A) Khayal
(B) Thumri
(C) Dhrupad
(D) Tarana

**244.** Consider the following statements regarding Ahilyabai Holkar:
Statement I: Ahilyabai Holkar was a renowned warrior queen who personally led her armies into many battles.
Statement II: She was a great patron of religion and public works, building and renovating temples, ghats, and dharamshalas across India.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**245.** The 'Saraswati Kanthabharan' is a famous work on grammar written by which ruler of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) King Dhanga
(B) King Man Singh Tomar
(C) King Bhoja
(D) King Sangram Shah

**246.** The first session of the Central Provinces Political Conference under the Swadeshi movement was held in which city?
(A) Jabalpur
(B) Nagpur
(C) Raipur
(D) Sagar

**247.** The revolt of 1857 in the Mahakoshal region was primarily led by:
(A) The Holkar ruler
(B) The Scindia ruler
(C) The Nawab of Bhopal
(D) The Gond rulers Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah

**248.** The memorial of Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh is located in which district?
(A) Dindori
(B) Mandla
(C) Jabalpur
(D) Seoni

**249.** Which of the following is a prominent Chalcolithic site in Madhya Pradesh, located on the southern bank of the Narmada river?
(A) Bhimbetka
(B) Adamgarh
(C) Navdatoli
(D) Panguradiya

**250.** The Sanchi Stone Inscription of the time of Chandragupta II records a donation by which of his military officers?
(A) Amrakardava
(B) Virasena
(C) Harishena
(D) Heliodorus

**251.** The Kachchapaghata dynasty was divided into three main branches. Which branch ruled from Gwalior?
(A) The branch of Dubkund
(B) The branch of Narwar
(C) The branch of Tripuri
(D) The main branch of Gwalior

**252.** The Gond ruler Sangram Shah, who expanded the Garha-Mandla kingdom significantly, is credited with the construction of which fort near Damoh?
(A) Asirgarh Fort
(B) Singorgarh Fort
(C) Gwalior Fort
(D) Mandu Fort

**253.** The 'Chhatris' of the Holkar dynasty are located in Indore on the bank of which river?
(A) Shipra
(B) Narmada
(C) Khan
(D) Chambal

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**189.** A key difference between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods is:
(A) Palaeolithic people lived in caves, while Neolithic people did not.
(B) The Palaeolithic period had art, while the Neolithic period did not.
(C) Palaeolithic tools were crude and chipped, while Neolithic tools were polished and ground.
(D) The Palaeolithic period was in the Iron Age, and the Neolithic in the Stone Age.

**190.** What is the most plausible reason for the frequent superimposition of paintings in rock shelters like Bhimbetka?
(A) A lack of available rock surface for new paintings.
(B) A deliberate attempt to overwrite the history of previous tribes.
(C) The result of children practicing artistic skills.
(D) Belief that superimposition enhanced magical potency.

**191.** Consider the following statements regarding the Sanchi inscription:
Statement I: The Sanchi inscription of Chandragupta II's time records a military victory over the Sakas.
Statement II: It primarily records a grant for the maintenance of the Buddhist establishment at Sanchi.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**192.** Which dynasty is associated with the 'Paribrajaka Maharajas' who ruled in the Bundelkhand region as feudatories of the Guptas in the 5th and 6th centuries?
(A) Oulikar dynasty
(B) Paribrajaka dynasty
(C) Uchchakalpa dynasty
(D) Abheer dynasty

**193.** The first capital of the Parmar dynasty of Malwa was:
(A) Dhar
(B) Ujjain
(C) Mandu
(D) Maheshwar

**194.** Which of the following is an incorrect statement about the Chandela dynasty?
(A) They successfully resisted and were never conquered.
(B) They were patrons of art and built the Khajuraho temples.
(C) Their kingdom was known as Jejakabhukti.
(D) The last powerful ruler, Paramardi Deva, was defeated by Prithviraj Chauhan.

**195.** Arrange the following events related to the Princely States of Madhya Pradesh in chronological order:
1. Foundation of the Holkar dynasty by Malhar Rao Holkar.
2. Reign of Rani Durgavati of Gondwana.
3. Establishment of the Bhopal State by Dost Mohammad Khan.
4. Rule of Mahadji Scindia.
Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 3, 1, 4, 2
(D) 2, 1, 3, 4

**196.** The slogan 'Angrezon, Bharat Chhodo' (British, Quit India) resonated strongly in Madhya Pradesh during the Quit India Movement of 1942. A significant event during this time was the student-led procession in which city, resulting in police firing?
(A) Gwalior
(B) Bhopal
(C) Indore
(D) Jabalpur

**197.** Bheemaji Nayak's struggle against the British in 1857 was concentrated in which part of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) The Baghelkhand region
(B) The Bundelkhand region
(C) The Nimar region (between the Narmada and Tapti)

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(C) Raisen
(D) Bhopal

**218.** The Mandsour inscription composed by Vatsabhatti is a eulogy for a temple of which deity, built by a guild of silk-weavers?
(A) Surya (the Sun God)
(B) Vishnu
(C) Shiva
(D) Brahma

**219.** Who was the founder of the Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri?
(A) Gangeyadeva
(B) Karna
(C) Lakshmanaraja
(D) Kokalla I

**220.** The Faruqi dynasty ruled independently in Khandesh (Nimar region). Which city was their capital?
(A) Mandu
(B) Burhanpur
(C) Asirgarh
(D) Indore

**221.** Consider the following statements about the Scindia (Sindhiya) dynasty:
1. The dynasty was founded by Ranoji Scindia, a Maratha commander.
2. They made Gwalior their capital after shifting from Ujjain.
3. Mahadji Scindia was instrumental in reviving Maratha power in North India after 1761.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**222.** The 1857 revolt in the Indore residency was led by which of the following?
(A) Sheikh Ramzan
(B) Rani Avantibai
(C) Shankar Shah
(D) Saadat Khan

**223.** Badal Bhoi was a tribal freedom fighter from which district of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Chhindwara
(B) Betul
(C) Seoni
(D) Mandla

**224.** The famous 'Kandariya Mahadeva Temple' at Khajuraho, the largest and most ornate temple of the complex, was built by which Chandela ruler?
(A) Yasovarman
(B) Vidyadhara
(C) Dhanga
(D) Paramardi Deva

**225.** The prehistoric site of Hathnora in the Narmada valley is famous for the discovery of what significant fossil?
(A) A complete dinosaur skeleton
(B) A hominid (early human) skull cap
(C) The fossil of a prehistoric fish
(D) Petrified tree trunks

**226.** The Sanchi Stupa's ornate gateways or 'Toranas' were added during the rule of which dynasty, succeeding the Mauryas?
(A) Satavahana Dynasty
(B) Gupta Dynasty
(C) Kushan Dynasty
(D) Sunga Dynasty

**227.** Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A): The rule of the Begums of Bhopal is considered a golden age in the history of the state.
Reason (R): Rulers like Sikandar Begum and Shah Jahan Begum introduced significant administrative, social, and educational reforms.
Choose the correct option:
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

**228.** The rebellion of Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh in 1857 was against the British policy of:
(A) High taxation on local agricultural produce.
(B) Banning of traditional religious festivals.
(C) Forcing farmers to cultivate indigo plants.
(D) Refusal to recognize her adopted successor.

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**207.** The Heliodorus pillar is located at which archaeological site in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Besnagar (Vidisha)
(B) Sanchi
(C) Bharhut
(D) Eran

**208.** The palace of 'Baz Bahadur' and the pavilion of 'Rani Roopmati' are iconic monuments located in which historic city?
(A) Orchha
(B) Mandu
(C) Gwalior
(D) Chanderi

**209.** The cultural sequence in many sites in Madhya Pradesh shows a progression from Palaeolithic to Mesolithic. What is the defining characteristic of the Mesolithic toolkit?
(A) Large hand-axes and cleavers
(B) Small, geometric stone tools known as microliths
(C) Polished celts and adzes
(D) Copper and bronze arrowheads

**210.** Which ruler of the Oulikar dynasty of Mandsaur claimed in his inscription to have ruled over a territory larger than that of the Guptas and Hunas?
(A) Yashodharman
(B) Jayavarman
(C) Simhavarman
(D) Naravarman

**211.** The Parmar ruler Bhoja established a center for Sanskrit studies in his capital Dhar. What was this institution known as?
(A) Nalanda Mahavihara
(B) Vikramshila
(C) Bhojshala
(D) Vallabhi

**212.** Consider the following statements regarding historical states:
Statement I: The Sindhiya and Holkar states were frequently in conflict during the late 18th century.
Statement II: This conflict was primarily a struggle for supremacy and control over the affairs of the Maratha Confederacy and the Malwa region.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**213.** What was the immediate result of the Bundela Rebellion of 1842?
(A) The British were permanently driven out of the region.
(B) The British agreed to all the demands of the Bundela chiefs.
(C) The rebellion was brutally suppressed, and its leaders were executed or imprisoned.
(D) The region was granted full independence.

**214.** The Civil Disobedience Movement in Madhya Pradesh was marked by the Salt Satyagraha and the Forest (Jungle) Satyagraha. The Forest Satyagraha was particularly significant because:
(A) It involved only the urban elite.
(B) It directly involved and mobilized the tribal and rural populations.
(C) It was the only Satyagraha led directly by Mahatma Gandhi in the state.
(D) It was completely unsuccessful.

**215.** The historical importance of Ganjan Singh Korku lies in his role as:
(A) A king of the Gond dynasty.
(B) A participant in the 1857 revolt from Mhow.
(C) A social reformer in the Bhil community.
(D) A leader of the Jungle Satyagraha in Betul.

**216.** The historical site of Vidisha was known by what name in ancient times and was a prosperous city mentioned in Pali Buddhist texts?
(A) Besnagar
(B) Padmavati
(C) Tripuri
(D) Dasharna

**217.** The caves of Bhimbetka are a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Sehore
(B) Hoshangabad

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(D) Scenes of sea voyages and foreign traders.

**180.** Which of the following statements about the Besnagar Garuddhwaja Pillar inscription is correct?
(A) It was commissioned by a prominent Kushan emperor.
(B) It is written in the Kharosthi script only.
(C) It is dedicated to the teachings of Buddha.
(D) It states Heliodorus adopted the Bhagavata faith.

**181.** Match List I with List II regarding dynasty founders and their respective dynasties.
List I: (Dynasty Founder)
P. Kokalla I
Q. Upendra (Krishnaraja)
R. Yasovarman
S. Ranoji
List II: (Dynasty)
1. Parmar
2. Chandela
3. Scindia (Sindhiya)
4. Kalchuri
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

**182.** After the decline of the Mauryas, the Sunga dynasty came to power. Which city in Madhya Pradesh was a major administrative and cultural center during the Sunga period, as evidenced by the Besnagar Pillar and the Bharhut Stupa's renovation?
(A) Ujjain
(B) Vidisha
(C) Tripuri
(D) Eran

**183.** Identify the correct statement regarding the princely state of Bhopal:
(A) It was founded by a Maratha chieftain.
(B) It was always ruled by male Nawabs.
(C) It actively participated in the 1857 revolt against the British.
(D) It was ruled by a succession of powerful Begums for over a century.

**184.** The Treaty of Bassein (1802) was a critical event that weakened the Maratha confederacy. Which major Maratha powers of Madhya Pradesh, the Scindias and Holkars, were directly affected by its consequences, leading to the Second Anglo-Maratha War?
(A) The Scindias and Holkars were both adversely affected.
(B) Only the Scindias were affected by the treaty.
(C) Only the Holkars were affected by the treaty.
(D) Neither state was affected by the terms of the treaty.

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**185.** In which district of Madhya Pradesh did the 'Ghoda Dongri Jungle Satyagraha' take place in 1930, led by Ganjan Singh Korku?
(A) Seoni
(B) Chhindwara
(C) Betul
(D) Mandla

**186.** The contribution of Raghunath Shah is primarily associated with:
(A) Planning an anti-British rebellion in the Gondwana region during 1857.
(B) Leading the Bhil uprising in the Nimar region.
(C) Participating in the Non-Cooperation movement.
(D) Founding the princely state of Rewa.

**187.** The famous rock-cut monument 'Dashavatara Temple' is located in Deogarh, which was historically part of the region now in both Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This temple is a classic example of architecture from which period?
(A) Mauryan period
(B) Kushan period
(C) Harsha's period
(D) Gupta period

**188.** Which holy city in Madhya Pradesh is located at the confluence of the Narmada and Kaveri rivers and is famous for the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga temple?
(A) Ujjain
(B) Omkareshwar
(C) Maheshwar
(D) Amarkantak

**229.** The Turia Jungle Satyagraha in 1930 took place in which district?
(A) Betul
(B) Hoshangabad
(C) Seoni
(D) Sagar

**230.** The Stupas of Sanchi are primarily:
(A) Hindu temples dedicated to Shiva.
(B) Buddhist monuments housing relics.
(C) Jaina monastic complexes.
(D) Royal palaces of the Mauryan emperors.

**231.** The term 'microlith' is associated with which prehistoric period?
(A) Palaeolithic
(B) Neolithic
(C) Chalcolithic
(D) Mesolithic

**232.** Which Chandela king commissioned the construction of the Lakshmana temple at Khajuraho, which is dedicated to Vishnu?
(A) Yasovarman
(B) Harsha
(C) Dhanga
(D) Vidyadhara

**233.** Which of the following dynasties was NOT a contemporary rival of the Parmars of Malwa?
(A) The Chandelas of Jejakabhukti
(B) The Kalchuris of Tripuri
(C) The Mauryas of Magadha
(D) The Chalukyas of Gujarat

**234.** The city of Mandu, the erstwhile capital of the Malwa Sultanate, is situated in which district of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Dhar
(B) Indore
(C) Ujjain
(D) Ratlam

**235.** The 'Tripuri Session' of the Indian National Congress in 1939 is a famous event in the history of the freedom struggle. Where is Tripuri located?
(A) Near Bhopal
(B) Near Gwalior
(C) Near Indore
(D) Near Jabalpur

**236.** Bheemaji Nayak, the 'Robin Hood of Nimar', was captured by the British and sent to which place, where he died?
(A) Gwalior Fort
(B) Cellular Jail, Port Blair
(C) Mandalay Jail, Burma
(D) Yerwada Jail, Pune

**237.** The 'Asirgarh Fort', known as the 'Gateway to the Deccan' (Bab-e-Deccan), is located in which district?
(A) Khandwa
(B) Khargone
(C) Burhanpur
(D) Barwani

**238.** Who among the following was a ruler of the Oulikar dynasty of Mandsaur?
(A) Gardbhilla
(B) Ganapatinaga
(C) Kokalla
(D) Bandhuvarma

**239.** The state of Madhya Bharat was formed in 1948 by merging the princely states of the Malwa region. Which two cities served as its capital for six months each?
(A) Indore and Gwalior
(B) Bhopal and Jabalpur
(C) Rewa and Satna
(D) Ujjain and Dhar

**240.** The 'Chhatris' (cenotaphs) of the Scindia rulers are located in which city?
(A) Gwalior
(B) Shivpuri
(C) Ujjain
(D) Orchha

**241.** Rock paintings in Madhya Pradesh are NOT found at which of the following sites?
(A) Bhimbetka
(B) Kayatha
(C) Adamgarh
(D) Likhichhaj

**242.** The Gardabhilla dynasty, which ruled from Ujjain, was overthrown by which foreign invaders?
(A) The Sakas
(B) The Hunas

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correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

**159.** The Tomars of Gwalior were defeated and the Gwalior fort was captured in 1518 by which ruler of the Delhi Sultanate?
(A) Ibrahim Lodi
(B) Sikandar Lodi
(C) Bahlul Lodi
(D) Alauddin Khilji

**160.** Consider the following statements about the princely state of Baghelkhand (Rewa):
1. The Baghelas claim their descent from the Solanki clan of Gujarat.
2. The state capital was moved to Rewa by Raja Vikramaditya.
3. Tansen, the legendary musician, was in the court of Raja Ramchandra Singh of Rewa before joining Akbar's court.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**161.** Tatya Tope, a pivotal figure in the 1857 revolt, was captured and executed in 1859. In which town of Madhya Pradesh did his execution take place?
(A) Gwalior
(B) Shivpuri
(C) Jhansi
(D) Sagar

**162.** The 'Salt Satyagraha' as part of the Civil Disobedience Movement in Madhya Pradesh was led in Jabalpur by:
(A) Seth Govind Das and Dwarka Prasad Mishra
(B) Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah
(C) Saadat Khan and Bhagirath Silawat
(D) Ganjan Singh Korku and Badal Bhoi

**163.** The tribal hero Badal Bhoi is commemorated in a museum in Chhindwara. He was arrested for his participation in which event?
(A) Leading the 1857 revolt in the Chhindwara region.
(B) Organizing the Jhanda Satyagraha in Seoni district.
(C) The burning of a forest depot during Non-Cooperation.
(D) Assassinating a British official during Quit India.

**164.** The Toranas (gateways) of the Sanchi Stupa are elaborately carved with scenes from:
(A) The Ramayana and Mahabharata.
(B) The military victories of Emperor Ashoka.
(C) The daily life of the Mauryan court.
(D) The life of the Buddha and the Jataka tales.

**165.** The Palaeolithic or 'Old Stone Age' sites in Madhya Pradesh are most frequently found in:
(A) The Malwa plateau region only.
(B) Dense forest interiors.
(C) River valleys and rock shelters.
(D) The summit of high mountains.

**166.** Which one of the following is NOT a characteristic feature of the Chalcolithic 'Malwa ware' pottery found in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) It is typically a black-on-red ware.
(B) It is a coarse, gritty pottery with a very fine finish.
(C) It often features painted geometric and naturalistic designs.
(D) It is one of the richest ceramic traditions of the Chalcolithic period.

NODIA

**167.** Which of the following inscriptions provides direct evidence of the rule of Kushan king Vashishka in the Sanchi region?
(A) A pillar edict announcing his laws.
(B) A rock edict describing his conquests.
(C) A copper plate grant.
(D) An image inscription recording a donation.

**168.** Tantya Bheel, known as the 'Indian Robin Hood', was active in which period?
(A) In the late 19th century (1878-1889)
(B) During the Mughal era
(C) During the 1857 rebellion
(D) During the Quit India Movement

**254.** The freedom fighter Tatya Tope was betrayed by his friend Man Singh, the ruler of which small state, leading to his capture?
(A) Ramgarh
(B) Orchha
(C) Heerapur
(D) Narwar

**255.** The cave paintings of Bhimbetka depict a wide range of animals. Which animal is most frequently depicted in these paintings?
(A) Bison/Gaur
(B) Elephant
(C) Tiger
(D) Horse

**256.** The Udayagiri caves near Vidisha, belonging to the Gupta period, are primarily:
(A) Natural caves used by prehistoric humans.
(B) Man-made caves, mostly Hindu and some Jaina in religious affiliation.
(C) Exclusively Buddhist Viharas.
(D) Residential palaces of the Gupta emperors.

**257.** Which city in Madhya Pradesh is known as the 'Gibraltar of India' due to the strategic importance and strength of its fort?
(A) Mandu
(B) Gwalior
(C) Orchha
(D) Asirgarh

**258.** The Paribrajaka dynasty ruled over which region of Madhya Pradesh in the 5th and 6th centuries AD?
(A) Bundelkhand
(B) Malwa
(C) Nimar
(D) Mahakoshal

**259.** What was the most significant contribution of Mahadji Scindia to the Maratha power in the late 18th century?
(A) He defeated the British in the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
(B) He signed the Treaty of Salbai without consulting the Peshwa.
(C) He established Maratha supremacy and controlled the Mughal Emperor.
(D) He shifted the Scindia capital from Ujjain to Gwalior permanently.

**260.** The Bhopal state under Nawab Hamidullah Khan was one of the last princely states to sign the Instrument of Accession to India. This event occurred in:
(A) August 1947
(B) January 1948
(C) November 1956
(D) April 1949

**261.** The 'Punjab Mail Kand' (massacre) that took place at Khandwa railway station in 1931 was an act of revolutionary nationalism aimed at:
(A) Protesting against the salt tax.
(B) Hoisting the national flag on a government building.
(C) Avenging the execution of Bhagat Singh.
(D) Looting government treasury being transported by the train.

**262.** Which of the following is a famous historical Stupa site in Madhya Pradesh besides Sanchi?
(A) Kayatha
(B) Bharhut
(C) Adamgarh
(D) Eran

**263.** The Neolithic Revolution is primarily defined by the:
(A) Invention of fire.
(B) Use of iron tools.
(C) Development of writing.
(D) Beginning of agriculture and settled life.

**264.** The Udayagiri Cave inscription of Chandragupta II is dated in the Gupta Era. What does it record?
(A) A donation by his minister Virasena for the construction of a Siva cave.
(B) The king's genealogy.
(C) The defeat of the Hunas.
(D) A land grant to a group of Brahmins.

**265.** The Chandela dynasty claimed descent from:
(A) The Sun God (Suryavansha).
(B) A sage who emerged from a fire pit (Agnikula).
(C) The Moon God (Chandravansha).
(D) A Naga princess.

**266.** Who was the founder of the Parmar dynasty of Malwa?
(A) Upendra (Krishnaraja)

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**9.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Besnagar pillar inscription provides critical evidence for the early practice of Bhagavatism, a form of Vaishnavism. It records the arrival of Heliodorus, an ambassador of the Indo-Greek king Antialcidas, who identified himself as a follower of Vishnu. By erecting a Garuda pillar in honour of Vasudeva, Heliodorus demonstrated the assimilation of foreigners into indigenous Indian religious traditions.

**10.** (A) Vidisha
The Udayagiri Caves are situated near the city of Vidisha and contain important inscriptions and sculptures from the Gupta period. The caves feature a famous inscription belonging to the reign of Chandragupta II, which records his presence in the region during his military campaigns. These rock-cut structures are excellent examples of early Hindu art, representing the era's political and religious history.

**11.** (C) 1 and 3 only
Historical records from Madhya Pradesh include the Sanchi inscription of the Kushan king Vashishka, which confirms Kushan political influence in the Malwa region. The Panguradiya inscription is a minor rock edict established by Ashoka in the Sehore district. However, the Mandsour inscription attributed to the reign of Kumaragupta I was actually composed to commemorate a Sun temple by silk-weavers.

**12.** (B) The migration and activities of a guild of silk-weavers
The Mandsour inscription, composed in Sanskrit by the poet Vatsabhatti, is celebrated for its literary quality and historical data. It describes a guild of silk-weavers who migrated from the Lata region to Dashapura. The text provides a detailed account of their professional success, social contributions, and the eventual construction of a grand temple dedicated to the Sun God there.

**13.** (C) Gardbhilla
The Gardbhilla dynasty ruled the Ujjain region during the first century BC before the Shaka invasions. Its eponymous founder, Gardbhilla, is mentioned in various historical and literary traditions. The dynasty is significant for its conflict with the Shakas, which eventually led to the rise of the legendary Vikramaditya, who is credited with establishing the Vikram Samvat era in later traditions.

**14.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Naga dynasty was a prominent power in central India during the transition from the post-Kushan to the early Gupta period. They maintained significant administrative centers at Padmavati, Vidisha, and Mathura. Their political influence ended when the Gupta emperor Samudragupta defeated Ganapatinaga and other regional rulers, as recorded in the Allahabad Pillar inscription, leading to the unification of north India.

**15.** (A) Dashapura (Mandsaur)
The Oulikar dynasty established its capital at Dashapura, which corresponds to modern-day Mandsaur. This dynasty gained historical fame during the reign of Yashodharman, who successfully repelled the Huna invasions and defeated their king, Mihirakula. Their rule is marked by significant cultural and architectural developments, as evidenced by victory pillars and several inscriptions found within the Mandsaur and surrounding regions.

**16.** (B) Paribrajaka and Uchchakalpa dynasties
During the Gupta era, the Baghelkhand region was governed by the Paribrajaka and Uchchakalpa dynasties. These ruling families served as feudatories to the Gupta emperors, acknowledging their suzerainty in various copper-plate grants. Their administrations were essential for maintaining regional stability and facilitating the spread of Gupta cultural and religious influences in the central and eastern parts of Madhya Pradesh.

**17.** (A) 4, 3, 2, 1
The political history of Madhya Pradesh follows a chronological sequence starting with the Naga dynasty in the third century. The Oulikar dynasty emerged later, reaching its peak in the sixth century. The Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri rose to power in the mid-ninth century, followed by the Parmar dynasty, which became the dominant force in Malwa during the late tenth century.

NODIA

(D) Bhopal

**280.** Who was the ruler of the Bhopal princely state who remained loyal to the British during the 1857 revolt?
(A) Sikandar Jahan Begum
(B) Dost Mohammad Khan
(C) Yar Mohammad Khan
(D) Shah Jahan Begum

**281.** Who was the leader of the rebels at Mahidpur during the 1857 mutiny?
(A) Saadat Khan
(B) Fazil Mohammed Khan
(C) Moran Khan
(D) Tatya Tope

**282.** The famous 'Gopal Mandir' in Ujjain, a fine example of Maratha architecture, was constructed by:
(A) Bayajibai Shinde, wife of Daulat Rao Scindia
(B) Ranoji Scindia
(C) Mahadji Scindia
(D) Ahilyabai Holkar

**283.** The paintings in the Bagh Caves primarily depict:
(A) Hunting scenes of prehistoric man.
(B) Portraits of Gupta emperors.
(C) Geometric and floral patterns only.
(D) Scenes from the Jataka tales and secular life.

**284.** Which of these dynasties ruled the Baghelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Oulikar dynasty
(B) Uchchakalpa dynasty
(C) Abheer dynasty
(D) Kachchapaghat dynasty

**285.** The city of Vidisha is located on the banks of which river?
(A) Narmada
(B) Shipra
(C) Betwa
(D) Chambal

**286.** In the first phase of the reorganization of states after 1947, Vindhya Pradesh was created as a Part C state. It was formed by merging the princely states of which two regions?
(A) Malwa and Nimar
(B) Mahakoshal and Chhattisgarh
(C) Gwalior and Indore
(D) Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand

NODIA

**287.** Tantya Bheel was known as the 'Robin Hood' of India by the British because:
(A) He looted British treasuries and the rich to aid the needy.
(B) He used a bow and arrow for all his combat.
(C) He lived in the deep interior of the forest regions.
(D) He wore green clothes for concealment in the woods.

**288.** The historical fort of Chanderi, famous for its 'Kati Ghati' gate, is located in which district?
(A) Guna
(B) Ashoknagar
(C) Shivpuri
(D) Vidisha

**289.** Which period is marked by the first use of copper tools in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Palaeolithic
(B) Chalcolithic
(C) Mesolithic
(D) Neolithic

**290.** The Mandsour inscription of Yasodharman is a 'Pillar of Victory' (Vijay Stambh) set up to commemorate his victory over whom?
(A) The Huna King Mihirakula
(B) The Gupta Emperor Kumaragupta
(C) The Chalukya King Pulakeshin II
(D) The Kushan King Kanishka

**291.** Which Parmar ruler was a contemporary of Mahmud of Ghazni and is said to have sheltered the Shahi king of Punjab?
(A) Siyaka II
(B) Munja
(C) Bhoja
(D) Udayaditya

**292.** The capital of the Chandela dynasty, Khajuraho, was also known as:
(A) Vatsa
(B) Dasharna
(C) Tumbavan
(D) Kharjuravahaka

**293.** The freedom struggle in the Gwalior state was largely suppressed by the ruling Scindia dynasty, who were allied with the British. This led to the formation of which organization to carry on the freedom struggle in the state?
(A) Indian National Congress, Gwalior Branch
(B) Hindu Mahasabha regional headquarters
(C) Gwalior Rajya Praja Mandal organization
(D) Servants of India Society local chapter

**294.** The historic fort of Bandhavgarh, now a famous national park, was a stronghold of which dynasty for a long time?
(A) Kalchuris
(B) Baghels of Rewa
(C) Chandelas
(D) Gonds

**295.** The prehistoric artist of Bhimbetka used colours made from natural minerals. What was the most commonly used colour?
(A) Blue, made from lapis lazuli
(B) Black, made from charcoal
(C) White, made from limestone
(D) Red, made from haematite or iron oxide

**296.** The Abheer dynasty, founded by Ishwarsena, is associated with the start of which era or calendar?
(A) Kalchuri-Chedi Era
(B) Saka Era
(C) Vikram Samvat
(D) Gupta Era

**297.** The 'Lal Bagh Palace' in Indore was built by which dynasty?
(A) Scindias
(B) Bundelas
(C) Holkars
(D) Baghels

**298.** The 'Gupt Godavari' caves, a place of religious and mythological significance, are located near which holy town in Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Chitrakoot
(B) Ujjain
(C) Omkareshwar
(D) Amarkantak

**299.** Before becoming the capital of the Parmars, Dhar was the capital of which preceding dynasty?
(A) Guptas
(B) Mauryas
(C) Pratiharas
(D) Rashtrakutas

**300.** The struggle of which tribal hero is associated with the 'Sendhwa Ghati' region during the 1857 revolt?
(A) Tantya Bheel
(B) Bheemaji Nayak
(C) Ganjan Singh Korku
(D) Shankar Shah

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# ANSWERS

1. (B) Mesolithic period
The Mesolithic period represents a transitional phase between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic ages. In Madhya Pradesh, this era is characterized by the widespread use of microliths, which are small, finely crafted stone tools. These tools signify an advancement in hunting and gathering techniques, reflecting a shift toward more specialized technology during the Holocene epoch in central India.

2. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Chalcolithic period marks the emergence of copper technology alongside traditional stone implements. In Madhya Pradesh, this culture is well-documented at several archaeological sites like Kayatha, Eran, and Navdatoli. These locations provide evidence of settled farming communities, distinct pottery styles, and the early use of metallurgy, highlighting the socio-economic transition from the Neolithic stage to the early Bronze Age.

3. (C) The rock paintings exclusively depict scenes of royal court life.
Rock paintings in Madhya Pradesh primarily reflect the everyday experiences of prehistoric humans rather than exclusively focusing on royal themes. These artworks illustrate communal activities such as hunting, gathering, dancing, and domestic rituals. The depictions provide invaluable insights into the social structure, wildlife, and belief systems of early inhabitants, showing a deep connection with the natural environment over several millennia.

4. (D) Scenes of hunting, dancing, and communal life
Prehistoric rock art in central India serves as a visual record of ancient life. The most frequent themes include group hunting of wild animals, ritualistic dancing, and scenes of communal gathering. These artistic expressions use natural pigments to portray the survival strategies and social interactions of early human societies, offering a glimpse into their daily routines and spiritual observations.

5. (C) Navdatoli
While Bhimbetka and Adamgarh are world-renowned for their extensive rock shelter complexes and prehistoric art, Navdatoli is primarily identified as a significant Chalcolithic settlement. Located on the banks of the Narmada River, Navdatoli is crucial for understanding early agricultural practices and pottery development rather than being a primary location for rock-cut shelters or ancient cave paintings within the region.

6. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
Archaeological sites in Madhya Pradesh correspond to distinct historical timelines. Bhimbetka exhibits human activity from the Palaeolithic to Mesolithic eras. Kayatha is a signature site for Chalcolithic culture. Adamgarh is vital for Mesolithic evidence, specifically animal domestication. Eran provides a long cultural sequence extending from the Chalcolithic period into the Iron Age, showcasing the region's diverse technological evolution.

7. (D) Jabalpur
The Rupnath inscription is an important minor rock edict of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka. It is situated on the Kaimur hills near the town of Bahuriband, which is currently part of the Katni district, formerly within the Jabalpur district. This epigraphic record serves as crucial evidence of the spread of Mauryan administrative and religious influence across central India.

8. (A) It explicitly mentions 'Ashoka' with his title 'Devanampiya'.
The Gurjara inscription, located in the Datia district, is historically significant because it is one of the few instances where the emperor's personal name, Ashoka, is explicitly used. Most other edicts refer to him by titles like Devanampiya or Piyadasi. This inscription helps historians definitively link the various edicts found across the Indian subcontinent to the specific Mauryan ruler.

NODIA

**46.** (D) Pethora painting
Pema Falya was a world-renowned artist of the traditional Pithora painting, an art form intrinsic to the Bhil and Bhilala tribes of Madhya Pradesh. These paintings are not merely decorative but hold deep ritualistic and religious significance. Through his work, Pema Falya played a vital role in preserving and gaining international recognition for this unique tribal cultural heritage from the Jhabua region.

**47.** (A) Ashoka
The Sanchi Stupa is one of the oldest and most significant stone structures in India, originally commissioned by the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka in the third century BC. It was built to house the sacred relics of the Buddha. Over subsequent centuries, various dynasties like the Sungas and Satavahanas added ornate gateways and railings, transforming it into a masterpiece of Buddhist architecture.

**48.** (B) Prehistoric rock paintings and shelters
The Bhimbetka caves are a premier archaeological site famous for their prehistoric rock art, which dates back to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. These paintings depict various aspects of ancient life, including hunting scenes, animals, and social rituals. The site provides continuous evidence of human habitation over thousands of years and was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its cultural value.

**49.** (B) Domestication of animals
The Adamgarh hills, situated near Hoshangabad, are of immense historical importance for yielding early evidence of animal domestication in India during the Mesolithic period. Excavations at the site have uncovered remains of domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats alongside microlithic tools. This finding marks a critical shift in human history from a purely hunter-gatherer existence toward a more settled, pastoral lifestyle.

**50.** (A) Mehrangarh Fort
Mehrangarh Fort is a famous historic landmark located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, not in Madhya Pradesh. In contrast, the Gwalior Fort is known for its architectural grandeur, Mandu is famous for its Malwa Sultanate structures, and Asirgarh Fort in Burhanpur was historically known as the 'Gateway to the Deccan'. These three forts played significant roles in the regional history of Madhya Pradesh.

**51.** (A) 2, 4, 1, 3
The historical timeline of freedom movements in Madhya Pradesh begins with the Bundela Rebellion in 1842. This was followed by the start of the 1857 revolt at the Neemuch cantonment in June 1857. In the twentieth century, the Jhanda Satyagraha occurred in 1923, and the Jungle Satyagraha in Betul took place later in 1930 during the Civil Disobedience Movement.

**52.** (D) Shipra
Ujjain, one of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism, is situated on the eastern bank of the Shipra River. The river is considered holy, and its banks host the Simhastha Kumbh Mela every twelve years. Historically known as Avantika, Ujjain was a major political and cultural center of ancient India, serving as the capital of the Avanti Mahajanapada and the Scindias.

**53.** (C) A hunter-gatherer lifestyle with crude stone tools
The Palaeolithic period in Madhya Pradesh is identified by a nomadic hunter-gatherer society. Inhabitants during this era relied on large, unpolished stone tools like hand-axes, cleavers, and scrapers for survival. Numerous sites in the Narmada and Chambal valleys provide evidence of these early humans, who lived in caves and rock shelters while following the seasonal movements of wild animal herds.

**54.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The rock art at Bhimbetka represents a vast chronological span, documenting human artistic expression from the Upper Palaeolithic through the Mesolithic and into the medieval periods. Archaeologists use the technique of superimposition, where newer layers of paintings overlap older ones, to determine the relative sequence of different cultures. This layered history makes Bhimbetka an invaluable resource for studying long-term human development.

**55.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
Ashokan inscriptions are found at various locations across Madhya Pradesh. The Gurjara inscription is located in the Datia district. The Rupnath edict is situated in the Katni district,

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**18.** (A) Vidyadhara - Defeated Mahmud of Ghazni's forces
Vidyadhara is regarded as the most powerful Chandela ruler. He is historically recognized for organizing a confederacy of Indian kings to resist the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni. His military strategic brilliance allowed him to successfully defend his territories, ensuring that the Chandela kingdom remained independent and sovereign during a period of frequent foreign incursions into the Indian heartland.

**19.** (C) Bhoja
Raja Bhoja is the most celebrated ruler of the Parmar dynasty. He was not only a successful military leader who expanded his kingdom's borders but also a renowned scholar and polymath. He authored numerous works on subjects ranging from grammar and medicine to architecture. His capital, Dhar, became a major hub for art, literature, and learning under his enlightened patronage.

**20.** (D) They were annexed by the Delhi Sultanate in the 11th century.
The Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri was a major medieval power that ruled from its capital near Jabalpur. While they faced intense competition from the Chandelas and Parmars, their eventual decline was gradual. They were not annexed by the Delhi Sultanate in the eleventh century; rather, their power waned over time before the region fell under Baghel and Gond influence.

**21.** (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
Different medieval dynasties in Madhya Pradesh controlled specific geographic regions. The Kalchuris ruled from Tripuri in the Dahala region. The Parmar dynasty dominated Malwa from their capital at Dhar. The Chandela dynasty was centered in Jejakabhukti, known today as Bundelkhand, while the Kachchapaghatas held power in the Gwalior region, leaving a lasting architectural legacy in those areas.

**22.** (B) Man Singh Tomar
Man Singh Tomar was the most distinguished ruler of the Tomar dynasty of Gwalior. He is celebrated for his deep patronage of Hindustani classical music, particularly the Dhrupad style. He commissioned the construction of the magnificent Man Mandir Palace and Gujari Mahal within the Gwalior Fort, which remain prime examples of Rajput architecture and the city's rich cultural heritage.

**23.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Faruqi dynasty established an independent sultanate in the Khandesh region, centered at Burhanpur. Their ability to maintain autonomy for nearly two centuries was largely due to their strategic location. By navigating the shifting alliances between the powerful neighbouring sultanates of Malwa, Gujarat, and the Bahmanis, they acted as a critical buffer state until their eventual annexation by Akbar.

**24.** (A) Sangram Shah
Sangram Shah was the most prominent ruler of the Gond dynasty of Garha-Mandla. Under his leadership, the kingdom expanded significantly, covering fifty-two forts across central India. He was a capable administrator and a patron of art and literature. His reign marked the zenith of Gondwana's political power and prosperity, setting the foundation for the kingdom's subsequent historical importance.

NODIA

**25.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Dost Mohammad Khan established the Bhopal State in the early eighteenth century as a mercenary in the Mughal army. For much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the state was notably governed by a line of female rulers known as the Begums. While Bhopal eventually joined India, it did not merge immediately in 1947, remaining separate until June 1949.

**26.** (A) Malhar Rao Holkar
Malhar Rao Holkar was the founder of the Holkar dynasty and a distinguished general in the Maratha Empire. He played a vital role in expanding Maratha influence into northern India and was granted the Malwa region by the Peshwa. His leadership established Indore as a major political center, paving the way for the dynasty's long-standing rule over the Holkar state.

**27.** (D) Ujjain
The Scindia (Sindhiya) dynasty initially established its administrative center at Ujjain, which was a major religious and commercial

hub. It was later, during the reign of Daulat Rao Scindia in 1810, that the capital was permanently shifted to Gwalior. This move was strategically motivated to better manage the northern territories and consolidate the dynasty's power within the Gwalior Fort.

**28.** (B) Rudra Pratap Singh
Rudra Pratap Singh was the founder of the Orchha kingdom and a significant early ruler of the Bundela Rajputs. In 1531, he established Orchha as his capital on the banks of the Betwa River. His leadership helped consolidate Bundela power in the region, leading to the construction of grand palaces and temples that defined the unique architectural style of Bundelkhand.

**29.** (C) Baghel Rajputs migrating from Gujarat
The principality of Baghelkhand was established by the Baghel Rajputs, who were descendants of the Solanki clan from Gujarat. They migrated to central India and founded their kingdom, eventually making Rewa their capital. The Baghelas maintained a significant degree of autonomy and played a crucial role in the regional politics of central India for several centuries until Indian independence.

**30.** (D) Yashwant Rao Holkar I
Yashwant Rao Holkar I was a formidable Maratha ruler known for his military genius and resistance against British expansion. During the Second Anglo-Maratha War, he challenged British forces and successfully protected his territories. His defiance made him a symbol of Maratha pride, and he is often referred to as the 'Napoleon of India' due to his tactical skills in battle.

**31.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
Rani Durgavati was the valiant Gond queen who led the defense of her kingdom against the Mughal army of Akbar. Facing overwhelming forces commanded by Asaf Khan, she displayed exceptional courage on the battlefield. When she realized that defeat was inevitable, she chose to sacrifice her life rather than surrender, becoming an immortal symbol of tribal resistance and female bravery.

**32.** (B) Hirde Shah
The Bundela Rebellion of 1842 was a significant anti-British uprising in the Sagar and Narmada territories. Hirde Shah, the chief of Heerapur, was one of the primary leaders who mobilized local forces against colonial administrative and revenue policies. Although the rebellion was ultimately suppressed, it reflected the deep-seated resentment against British rule that would later culminate in the 1857 struggle.

**33.** (B) The start of the rebellion at Meerut
The news of the uprising at Meerut and Delhi acted as the primary catalyst for the start of the 1857 freedom struggle in Madhya Pradesh. On June 3, 1857, Indian soldiers stationed at the Neemuch cantonment revolted against their British officers. This event marked the beginning of widespread resistance across Central India, as various garrisons and local rulers joined the movement.

**34.** (A) Rani Avantibai
Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh was a heroic figure in the 1857 rebellion in the Mandla region. She took up arms against the British after they refused to recognize her right to rule following her husband's death. She led her troops with great skill and courage until she was cornered by British forces, choosing to sacrifice her life for the cause of independence.

**35.** (C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
During the 1857 uprising, various leaders spearheaded the resistance in different parts of Madhya Pradesh. Sheikh Ramzan led the movement in Sagar. Tatya Tope was active across Gwalior and Bundelkhand. Shankar Shah organized the rebellion in the Mahakoshal region around Jabalpur, while Saadat Khan led the revolt at the Mahidpur and Indore cantonments against the British residency.

**36.** (D) Jabalpur
The Jhanda Satyagraha of 1923 was a landmark event in the Indian independence movement that started in Jabalpur. It began as a protest against the British prohibition on hoisting the nationalist flag over local municipal buildings. This movement soon gained national importance, symbolizing Indian defiance and dignity, and was eventually moved to Nagpur to broaden the scope of the agitation.

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**37.** (C) To defy restrictive forest laws imposed by the British
The Jungle Satyagraha was a pivotal component of the Civil Disobedience Movement within the Central Provinces. It involved a symbolic act of defiance where participants, primarily from tribal communities, intentionally violated colonial forest laws by cutting grass or wood from restricted government reserves. This movement effectively mobilized the rural and tribal populations by addressing their direct economic grievances against British administration.

**38.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Non-Cooperation Movement saw massive public participation across Madhya Pradesh, driven by local leaders who organized strikes and boycotts. Figures like Prabhakar Dundiraj Jatkar and Seth Govind Das played instrumental roles in sensitizing the masses against British policies. Their efforts ensured that the call for non-cooperation resonated strongly in cities like Jabalpur, Khandwa, and Sagar, challenging colonial authority locally.

**39.** (D) States Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission)
The modern state of Madhya Pradesh was created on November 1, 1956, based on the recommendations of the States Reorganisation Commission, headed by Fazl Ali. This process involved merging the previous states of Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, and Bhopal with the Hindi-speaking areas of the Central Provinces and Berar, creating a unified administrative entity based primarily on linguistic considerations.

**40.** (A) Shankar Shah
Shankar Shah was the titular king of the Gond dynasty of Garha-Mandla who planned a rebellion against British rule during the 1857 uprising. He was arrested alongside his son, Raghunath Shah, after their revolutionary poems were discovered. In a brutal act of suppression, both were executed by being tied to cannons and blown away in Jabalpur, becoming revered tribal martyrs.

**41.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
Several tribal heroes contributed significantly to the freedom struggle in Madhya Pradesh. Bheemaji Nayak led the Bhil resistance in the Nimar region during 1857. Tantya Bheel became a legendary figure for his guerrilla tactics against British exploitation in the late nineteenth century. Ganjan Singh Korku spearheaded the Jungle Satyagraha in Betul during the 1930s, highlighting the tribal community's consistent defiance.

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**42.** (A) A police officer in a cantonment
Khajya Nayak was a prominent tribal leader who initially served as a jamadar in the British police force within the Nimar region. However, due to the injustices faced by his community and personal grievances, he left his post to lead a rebellion during the 1857 revolt. He worked closely with Bheemaji Nayak to disrupt British communications and seize government treasuries.

**43.** (D) Munda Rai
The Turia Jungle Satyagraha in the Seoni district was a significant event during the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930. Munda Rai, along with other local tribal leaders, led the protest against restrictive colonial forest regulations. The movement demonstrated the deep involvement of forest-dwelling communities in the national freedom struggle, even when faced with violent suppression by the British police and administration.

**44.** (B) Guerrilla warfare
Tantya Bheel was an expert in guerrilla warfare, utilizing the dense forests and difficult terrain of the Nimar region to his advantage. He avoided direct confrontations with the British army, instead opting for surprise attacks on government supplies and officials. His ability to evade capture for over a decade made him a local hero and a persistent challenge for the colonial government.

**45.** (C) Non-Cooperation Movement
Badal Bhoi was a courageous tribal leader from the Chhindwara district who actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement. He led his community in protesting against British forest policies and colonial exploitation. His commitment to the cause of independence led to his arrest and subsequent death in jail, for which he is remembered as a prominent martyr in the history of Mahakoshal.

(B) Bhoja
(C) Munja
(D) Siyaka II

**267.** Which Holkar ruler bravely confronted the British forces led by Colonel Monson and Lord Lake during the Second Anglo-Maratha War?
(A) Malhar Rao Holkar
(B) Ahilyabai Holkar
(C) Tukoji Rao Holkar II
(D) Yashwant Rao Holkar I

**268.** The revolt of 1857 in Gwalior was peculiar because:
(A) The Scindia ruler actively supported the rebels from the beginning.
(B) The Scindia ruler remained loyal to the British, but his army rebelled.
(C) There was no revolt in Gwalior at all.
(D) The revolt was led by a French mercenary.

**269.** The historical city of Orchha is situated on the banks of which river?
(A) Chambal
(B) Ken
(C) Betwa
(D) Narmada

**270.** Amarkantak, a holy city and pilgrimage site, is the source of which two major rivers?
(A) Narmada and Tapti
(B) Son and Chambal
(C) Tapti and Betwa
(D) Narmada and Son

**271.** Evidence for the Chalcolithic period in Madhya Pradesh comes from all of the following sites EXCEPT:
(A) Gurjara
(B) Kayatha
(C) Eran
(D) Navdatoli

**272.** The Garud-dhwaja (Garuda pillar) at Besnagar was erected by Heliodorus, who was an ambassador of which Indo-Greek king?
(A) Menander
(B) Antialcidas
(C) Demetrius
(D) Eucratides

**273.** The Gurjara-Pratihara empire, which included parts of Madhya Pradesh, had its magnificent capital at:
(A) Ujjain
(B) Kannauj
(C) Pataliputra
(D) Delhi

**274.** The last independent ruler of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga was:
(A) Narhar Shah
(B) Sangram Shah
(C) Dalpat Shah
(D) Rani Durgavati

**275.** After the 1857 revolt, the administration of India was transferred from the East India Company to the British Crown. This was announced by the Queen's Proclamation of:
(A) 1857
(B) 1859
(C) 1858
(D) 1860

**276.** The 'Samadhi' (tomb) of Rani Durgavati is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?
(A) Mandla
(B) Dindori
(C) Seoni
(D) Jabalpur

**277.** The 'Jai Vilas Palace', the residence of the Scindia family, is a famous landmark in which city?
(A) Indore
(B) Ujjain
(C) Gwalior
(D) Shivpuri

**278.** The site of Eran is famous for an inscription of the Gupta ruler Bhanugupta, which is the first epigraphic evidence for what social practice?
(A) Child marriage
(B) Sati (self-immolation of a widow)
(C) Untouchability
(D) Jauhar

**279.** The Parmar king Bhoja is associated with the construction of a large lake in which city?
(A) Ujjain
(B) Dhar
(C) Mandu

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which was historically part of Jabalpur. The Panguradiya inscription is found in the Sehore district, while Sanchi, famous for its grand stupas and Ashokan pillar, is located within the Raisen district.

**56.** (A) Brahmi
The Besnagar Garuddhwaja Pillar inscription, dating to the second century BC, is written in the Brahmi script and Prakrit language. This inscription is historically significant as it records the devotion of Heliodorus, an Indo-Greek ambassador, to the deity Vasudeva. The use of Brahmi reflects the widespread administrative and cultural adoption of this script in ancient central India for official and religious purposes.

**57.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The Chandela dynasty is world-famous for the spectacular temple complex at Khajuraho, which represents the pinnacle of Nagara-style architecture. However, these temples were built primarily for religious and spiritual purposes, reflecting the rulers' devotion to Hinduism and Jainism. While the Chandelas did build massive forts like Kalinjar for defense, the Khajuraho temples themselves were never intended to serve as military fortresses.

**58.** (A) Vaishnavism and Shaivism
The Udayagiri Cave inscriptions near Vidisha belong to the reign of Chandragupta II and are deeply rooted in the Brahmanical traditions of Vaishnavism and Shaivism. One cave features the iconic Varaha sculpture, depicting the boar incarnation of Vishnu. These inscriptions and carvings attest to the official patronage of the Gupta monarchs towards these religious sects during their political expansion into Malwa.

**59.** (D) Kalchuri
The Kalchuri dynasty, also known as the Haihayas, was a powerful ruling house in central India with its capital at Tripuri, near Jabalpur. They controlled the Dahala region and were significant political players during the early medieval period. The dynasty is known for its involvement in the tripartite struggle for North India and for patronage of art, particularly in the Mahakoshal region.

**60.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The Parmar dynasty, founded by Upendra, was a major power in Malwa. Their capital was initially at Ujjain before shifting to Dhar. The most illustrious ruler, Raja Bhoja, was a versatile genius who excelled in military conquests and intellectual pursuits. He is credited with writing several authoritative texts on subjects like Vastu Shastra, grammar, and literature, leaving a profound cultural legacy.

**61.** (C) Naga Dynasty - Malwa only
The Naga dynasty was not limited to the Malwa region; it maintained several major power centers across central and northern India, including Padmavati, Vidisha, Kantipuri, and Mathura. In contrast, the Oulikar dynasty was centered at Dashapura, the Uchchakalpa dynasty at Unchehara, and the Paribrajakas in the Bundelkhand region. The Nagas were a widespread political force before being incorporated into the Gupta Empire.

**62.** (D) Maheshwar
Ahilyabai Holkar, the legendary ruler of the Holkar state, shifted her administrative capital from Indore to Maheshwar, situated on the banks of the Narmada River. Under her governance, Maheshwar flourished as a center of textile industry, religion, and culture. She is revered for her piety and for constructing numerous temples, ghats, and social welfare projects across the Indian subcontinent during her reign.

**63.** (A) Sindhiya and Holkar
The treaties of Gwalior and Mandsaur were critical diplomatic events following the Third Anglo-Maratha War. The 1817 Treaty of Gwalior with the Sindhias and the 1818 Treaty of Mandsaur with the Holkars effectively ended Maratha resistance in central India. These agreements forced the states to accept British suzerainty, drastically reducing their territories and placing their external affairs under the British East India Company.

**64.** (B) Chauri Chaura incident
The Chauri Chaura incident, which led to the suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement by Mahatma Gandhi, occurred in the United Provinces, specifically in the Gorakhpur district, not in Madhya Pradesh. In contrast, the Swadeshi

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arms against the British to protect her kingdom and refused to accept colonial authority. Her valiant struggle and ultimate sacrifice for the cause of independence have made her a revered national icon and a symbol of female resistance.

**100.** (D) Central Provinces and Berar, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, and the Bhopal state.
The modern state of Madhya Pradesh was formed on November 1, 1956, through a comprehensive administrative reorganization. It integrated four major units: the Hindi-speaking districts of the Central Provinces and Berar (Part A), the state of Madhya Bharat (Part B), the state of Vindhya Pradesh (Part C), and the princely state of Bhopal. This merger created a unified state based primarily on linguistic and cultural commonalities.

**101.** (C) Bhil
Tantya Bheel, affectionately known as Tantya Mama, is a legendary figure and folk hero deeply revered by the Bhil community. He led a successful resistance against British exploitation and the oppressive zamindari system in the late nineteenth century. His guerrilla tactics and commitment to helping the poor have made him a symbol of courage and social justice within the Bhil cultural identity and tribal history.

**102.** (B) Kathotiya Caves
The Kathotiya Caves, located in the Raisen district, are a significant site for prehistoric rock art in Madhya Pradesh. Similar to Bhimbetka, these caves contain numerous paintings depicting ancient social life, hunting practices, and various animals. The site contributes to the understanding of the density and distribution of prehistoric human settlements and their artistic traditions within the Vindhyan mountain range and central Indian landscape.

**103.** (D) They offer a visual narrative of prehistoric social and cultural life.
The rock paintings at sites like Bhimbetka and Adamgarh are invaluable historical sources because they provide a visual documentation of human life before the advent of writing. They depict scenes of collective hunting, rituals, dances, and domestic life, offering insights into the tools, social structures, and religious beliefs of ancient societies. These artworks act as a primary narrative for reconstructing the socio-cultural history of prehistoric India.

**104.** (A) Mandsour Inscription - Samudragupta
The Mandsour inscription is not associated with Samudragupta; it was composed during the reign of Kumaragupta I and specifically mentions the local governor Bandhuvarman and a guild of silk-weavers. In contrast, the Gurjara inscription belongs to Ashoka, the Besnagar Pillar to Heliodorus, and the Udayagiri Cave inscription to Chandragupta II. Each of these correctly matched pairs provides crucial evidence for the history of their respective eras.

**105.** (C) Palas and Gurjara-Pratiharas
The Kalchuris of Tripuri were major participants in the tripartite struggle for supremacy over northern India, particularly the control of Kannauj. Their primary adversaries were the Palas from the eastern region and the Gurjara-Pratiharas from the west. This long-standing competition among the three powers defined the political landscape of the eighth to tenth centuries, influencing the boundaries and regional stability across the Ganga valley and central India.

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**106.** (A) Akbar
The Faruqi dynasty, which ruled the Khandesh region for over two hundred years, was eventually annexed by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1601. Akbar captured the strategic Asirgarh Fort, which was known as the 'Gateway to the Deccan', effectively ending Faruqi rule. This conquest was a significant step in the Mughal expansion into southern India, bringing the prosperous Burhanpur region under direct imperial control.

**107.** (D) Rudra Pratap Singh
Rudra Pratap Singh was the founder of the Orchha state and a key leader of the Bundela Rajputs in the sixteenth century. He recognized the strategic importance of the site and established Orchha as his capital in 1531. His leadership laid the foundation for the kingdom's growth, and his successors continued to build the magnificent palaces and temples that define the historic character of this Bundelkhand town.

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Disobedience Movement. British forces opened fire on a peaceful assembly of people who had gathered to discuss future strategies for the movement. This tragic event, resulting in several deaths, earned the name 'Jallianwala Bagh of MP' for its similarity to the Amritsar massacre.

**74.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Bheemaji Nayak was a critical figure in the 1857 revolt within the Nimar region. As a Bhil leader, his deep knowledge of the local topography allowed him to successfully employ guerrilla tactics against British forces. He organized several attacks on colonial outposts and seized government treasuries, becoming a major symbol of tribal resistance and a formidable challenge to British military control in central India.

**75.** (D) Mandu
The Jahaz Mahal (Ship Palace) and Hindola Mahal (Swinging Palace) are architectural masterpieces located in the historic hill fort of Mandu. These structures were built during the period of the Malwa Sultanate and reflect the refined Afghan architectural style. Mandu, also known as Shadiabad or the 'City of Joy', is famous for its extensive monuments, palaces, and water bodies that showcase medieval engineering.

**76.** (B) The transitional period between Palaeolithic and Neolithic.
The Mesolithic period in Madhya Pradesh is defined as the Middle Stone Age, acting as a bridge between the earlier Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers and the later Neolithic farmers. It is characterized by a shift towards warmer climates and the use of microliths—tiny, precisely shaped stone tools. This era also shows early signs of semi-permanent settlements and the beginning of social complexity among human groups.

**77.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Prehistoric rock art in Madhya Pradesh shows a clear evolution in the use of pigments. The earliest paintings typically utilized green and dark red colours, often depicting large animals and hunting scenes. Later paintings introduced white and yellow pigments, showing more complex social activities. Contrary to the third statement, later paintings do provide visual evidence of animal domestication, reflecting changing socio-economic lifestyles.

**78.** (D) The Udayagiri Cave inscription of Virasena Saba
The Udayagiri Cave inscription of Virasena Saba is a key historical record from the reign of Chandragupta II. Virasena was a minister of the king who accompanied him during his military expedition to conquer the Saka-ruled territories in Malwa. The inscription, located near Vidisha, confirms the direct personal presence of the Gupta monarch in central India and his successful expansion of the empire westward.

**79.** (A) Ishwarsena
The Abheer (Abhira) dynasty was founded by Ishwarsena in the third century AD. They rose to power in the northwestern Deccan and parts of central India after the decline of the Satavahanas. The dynasty is particularly significant because the era they established, known as the Kalchuri-Chedi era, was later adopted by other ruling houses in central India for their official records and inscriptions.

**80.** (B) Nagabhata II
Nagabhata II was a prominent ruler of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty who achieved a major milestone by capturing Kannauj and making it his permanent capital. His victory helped the dynasty establish a dominant presence over north and central India. This expansion brought several regions of modern Madhya Pradesh under Pratihara influence, marking their role as one of the three powers in the famous tripartite struggle.

**81.** (B) 2, 3, 1, 4
The chronological order of Parmar rulers begins with Siyaka II, who established the dynasty's independence. He was succeeded by Vakpatiraja Munja, known for his military and literary interests. The dynasty reached its greatest height under the legendary Raja Bhoja in the eleventh century. Later, Udayaditya ruled during the late eleventh century and is known for constructing the magnificent Neelkantheshwar temple at Udaipur.

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essential primary sources that help historians reconstruct the genealogy, administration, and socio-economic conditions of the Baghelkhand and Bundelkhand regions during the late fifth and early sixth centuries.

**134.** (B) Mahmud of Ghazni
Vidyadhara, the most powerful king of the Chandela dynasty, is historically celebrated for his successful resistance against the Turkic conqueror Mahmud of Ghazni. When Mahmud invaded central India in the early eleventh century, Vidyadhara organized a strong defensive alliance. His military strategic skills and the formidable strength of his army forced Mahmud to eventually retreat, making the Chandelas one of the few contemporary powers to successfully withstand his incursions.

**135.** (A) 3, 4, 1, 2
The historical timeline of these rulers begins with Yashodharman of the Oulikar dynasty in the sixth century. He was followed by the Chandela ruler Dhanga in the late tenth century. Raja Bhoja of the Parmar dynasty flourished in the early eleventh century, representing the zenith of Parmar power. Finally, Man Singh Tomar ruled the Gwalior state in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, marking the medieval period.

**136.** (A) Akbar
The Mughal invasion of the Gondwana kingdom occurred in 1564 during the reign of Emperor Akbar. Akbar sought to expand his empire into central India and sent an army led by Asaf Khan to conquer the prosperous kingdom ruled by Rani Durgavati. The ensuing battle was a significant event in Mughal history, highlighting both Akbar's imperial ambitions and the heroic resistance of the Gond queen against overwhelming Mughal forces.

**137.** (C) All leaders listed above
The Jhanda Satyagraha of 1923 was a widespread movement that saw the participation of numerous prominent leaders from Madhya Pradesh. Seth Govind Das, Ravi Shankar Shukla, and the poetess Subhadra Kumari Chauhan were among those who led the protests in Jabalpur and Nagpur. Their collective efforts and willingness to face imprisonment for the honor of the national flag helped turn a local dispute into a major national symbol of resistance.

**138.** (A) The Jhanda Satyagraha of 1923 failed nationally.
Contrary to being a failure, the Jhanda Satyagraha of 1923 was a major national success. While it began in Jabalpur, it gained immense momentum after moving to Nagpur, forcing the British government to eventually allow the hoisting of the Indian national flag. The movement succeeded in making the tricolour a symbol of national unity and defiance across India, marking a significant psychological victory for the freedom struggle against colonial rule.

**139.** (D) Malwa and Nimar
Tantya Bheel focused his revolutionary activities primarily within the Malwa and Nimar regions of Madhya Pradesh. These areas, characterized by dense forests and rugged hills, provided the perfect environment for his guerrilla warfare against the British. His ability to operate across these regions and gain the support of the local tribal population made him a persistent and formidable challenge to British administrative and military control for over a decade.

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**140.** (B) V.S. Wakankar
The prehistoric rock shelters of Bhimbetka were discovered in 1957 by the renowned Indian archaeologist V.S. Wakankar. While traveling by train, he noticed the unique rock formations and began exploring the area on foot. His discovery revealed hundreds of caves containing ancient paintings, leading to a revolutionary understanding of prehistoric human life in central India. The site was later recognized by UNESCO for its immense archaeological and cultural significance.

**141.** (C) H.D. Sankalia
The archaeological site of Navdatoli, one of the most important Chalcolithic settlements in India, was extensively excavated by H.D. Sankalia. Located on the southern bank of the Narmada River, the excavations uncovered several layers of human habitation. Sankalia's work provided detailed evidence of early agricultural practices, distinct pottery styles, and the first use of copper in the region, making Navdatoli a key site for understanding India's transition to a settled life.

incorporated into the new Madhya Pradesh in 1956.

**91.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Jungle Satyagraha was a unique facet of the Civil Disobedience Movement in the Central Provinces because it directly addressed the specific issues of the tribal population. British forest laws had severely restricted traditional tribal access to forest produce, which was vital for their survival. By intentionally violating these laws, the movement successfully linked the national struggle for independence with local economic and social rights.

**92.** (B) Ghoda Dongri Jungle Satyagraha in Betul.
Ganjan Singh Korku was a courageous tribal leader who spearheaded the Ghoda Dongri Jungle Satyagraha in the Betul district in 1930. He mobilized the Korku community to defy restrictive British forest regulations by symbolically cutting grass and wood. This Satyagraha demonstrated the powerful role of tribal leadership and community participation in the broader national movement against colonial exploitation and administrative overreach.

**93.** (C) Animal domestication
The Adamgarh site is exceptionally significant because it provides some of the earliest archaeological evidence of animal domestication in the Indian subcontinent. Excavations revealed remains of cattle, sheep, and goats dating back to the Mesolithic period. This discovery indicates that the prehistoric inhabitants of the region had begun to transition from a purely hunting-based economy toward an early pastoral life, domesticating animals for food and labor.

**94.** (D) Bawangaja
Bawangaja is a famous Jaina pilgrimage center located in the Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh. It is renowned for its massive, 84-foot-tall statue of Lord Adinath, the first Tirthankara, carved out of a single rock. This colossal statue, dating back to the early medieval period, along with numerous other temples on the hill, makes Bawangaja a significant site for Jaina art and spiritual practice.

**95.** (A) The beginning of agriculture and animal domestication
The Neolithic period in Madhya Pradesh signifies a major evolutionary shift known as the 'Neolithic Revolution'. It is defined by the transition from a nomadic lifestyle to settled agriculture and systematic animal domestication. During this time, humans developed ground and polished stone tools, started making pottery, and lived in more permanent villages, laying the groundwork for more complex social and economic structures in the region.

**96.** (B) 2 and 3 only
The Besnagar pillar was actually set up by Heliodorus, an Indo-Greek ambassador, not a Shunga king, although it occurred during the Shunga period. Furthermore, the Mandsour inscription of Bandhu Verma specifically praises a guild of silk-weavers, not horse traders. The Gurjara inscription remains unique among Ashokan edicts in Madhya Pradesh for mentioning the emperor's personal name, Ashoka, alongside his usual titles.

**97.** (C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
Historical dynasties of Madhya Pradesh are defined by their prominent rulers. Yashodharman was the famous Oulikar king of Dashapura. Hastin was a major ruler of the Paribrajaka dynasty in Bundelkhand. Jayanatha was a key figure of the Uchchakalpa dynasty in Baghelkhand, while Ganapatinaga was the last significant king of the Naga dynasty who was eventually defeated by the Gupta emperor Samudragupta.

**98.** (A) Sultanate of Malwa
Mandu served as the capital of the independent Malwa Sultanate for over a century. The city's architecture, including its grand mosques, palaces, and tombs, reflects the distinct Afghan style adopted by the Ghori and Khilji rulers of Malwa. Mandu's strategic hilltop location and its magnificent structures like the Jami Masjid and Hoshang Shah's tomb make it a pinnacle of medieval Islamic architecture in India.

**99.** (C) Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi
Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh is often compared to Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi because of her extraordinary courage and leadership during the 1857 revolt. Like Lakshmibai, Avantibai took up

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movement, Jhanda Satyagraha in Jabalpur, and the Civil Disobedience Movement were all active and significant components of the freedom struggle within the various regions of Madhya Pradesh.

**65.** (B) Mahakoshal (Gondwana)
The execution of the Gond king Shankar Shah and his son Raghunath Shah by the British in 1857 was a transformative event for the Mahakoshal region. By blowing them from cannons in Jabalpur, the British aimed to terrorize the local population. However, this act of brutality backfired, as it incensed the tribal communities and local soldiers, leading to a massive escalation of the revolt.

**66.** (A) Sati
The historical site of Eran in the Sagar district is home to an inscription of Bhanugupta dated 510 AD. This pillar inscription records the death of a chieftain named Goparaja in battle and mentions that his wife immolated herself on his funeral pyre. This is recognized as one of the earliest and most definitive epigraphic records of the practice of Sati in India.

**67.** (C) Farming communities with pottery and copper use
Chalcolithic cultures in Madhya Pradesh, such as the Kayatha and Malwa cultures, represent early agricultural societies. These communities lived in thatched houses, cultivated crops like wheat and pulses, and domesticated animals. They are characterized by the concurrent use of stone tools and copper implements, alongside the production of distinctive, often painted, pottery, marking a transition toward more complex socio-economic structures.

**68.** (D) Minor Rock Edict
The Panguradiya inscription, discovered in the Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh, is classified as an Ashokan Minor Rock Edict. Like other minor edicts, it reflects Ashoka's personal commitment to Buddhism and his efforts to propagate Dharma among his subjects. These inscriptions are vital for mapping the geographical extent of the Mauryan Empire and understanding the localized dissemination of Ashokan religious policies.

**69.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Sanchi Stone inscription from the Gupta era mentions a significant donation by Amrakardava, a military officer serving under Chandragupta II. The grant was intended for the Buddhist community at the Great Stupa, reflecting the religious tolerance of the Gupta monarchs. Furthermore, the inscription underscores the effective administrative presence of the Gupta Empire in the eastern Malwa region during the peak of its power.

**70.** (B) Gurjara-Pratiharas
The Kachchapaghata dynasty, which emerged as a significant power in northern Madhya Pradesh, initially served as feudatories to the Gurjara-Pratihara Empire. As the Pratihara authority declined in the late tenth century, the Kachchapaghatas asserted their independence. They established themselves in regions like Gwalior and Narwar, where they contributed significantly to architectural development, including several famous temples within the Gwalior Fort complex.

**71.** (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
Madhya Pradesh's history is defined by prominent rulers across different states. Rani Durgavati was the heroic queen of the Gondwana kingdom. Mahadji Sindhia was a powerful statesman who consolidated Scindia power in Gwalior. Ahilyabai Holkar is celebrated for her long and benevolent rule over the Holkar state from Maheshwar, while Shah Jahan Begum was an influential ruler of the princely state of Bhopal.

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**72.** (A) The Mughal Empire under Aurangzeb
Maharaja Chhatrasal was a legendary Bundela warrior who led a persistent struggle for independence against the Mughal Empire during the reign of Aurangzeb. Inspired by Shivaji Maharaj, he successfully carved out an independent kingdom in Bundelkhand. His resistance and military successes made him a folk hero, and he is remembered for his bravery in defending his land and culture from imperial domination.

**73.** (C) Civil Disobedience Movement
The 'Charan Paduka Massacre' occurred in January 1931 at a place called Charan Paduka in the Chhatarpur district during the Civil

**108.** (B) Qudsia Begum (Gohar Begum)
Qudsia Begum, also known as Gohar Begum, was the first female ruler of the princely state of Bhopal. She ascended to the throne in 1819 after the death of her husband. Her rule marked the beginning of a century-long tradition of successful female governance in Bhopal. She was a visionary leader who focused on public welfare and began the construction of several iconic buildings, including the Jama Masjid.

**109.** (C) At Khandwa railway station
The 'Punjab Mail Massacre' (Punjab Mail Kand) was a significant revolutionary event that took place at the Khandwa railway station in July 1931. A group of revolutionaries, including Devnarayan Tiwari and Yashwant Singh, carried out an attack on British officers travelling on the train. This act was a part of the wider revolutionary movement in India, aimed at challenging British authority through direct and forceful resistance.

**110.** (D) A symbolic protest involving cutting grass to defy forest laws.
The Jungle Satyagraha was a unique form of non-violent protest in Madhya Pradesh during the Civil Disobedience Movement. Participants, largely from tribal and rural communities, symbolically defied restrictive British forest laws by cutting grass and wood from protected government forests. This method effectively mobilized large numbers of people and highlighted the colonial administration's encroachment on traditional rights, making it a powerful tool of local resistance.

**111.** (A) Tatya Tope
Bheemaji Nayak is often compared to Tatya Tope due to his mastery of guerrilla warfare during the 1857 revolt. Operating in the rugged Nimar region, he avoided large-scale conventional battles, preferring surprise attacks and hit-and-run tactics against British forces. His ability to evade capture for a long time using his knowledge of the local terrain made him as legendary as Tatya Tope in the annals of Central Indian resistance.

**112.** (B) Ajanta Caves
The Bagh Caves in the Dhar district are famous for their magnificent mural paintings, which represent the pinnacle of Buddhist art during the Gupta period. The style, technique, and themes of these paintings are very similar to those found in the world-renowned Ajanta Caves. These murals depict various religious and secular scenes, showcasing the refined aesthetic and high level of artistic achievement prevalent in ancient central India.

**113.** (B) Narmada Valley
The Narmada Valley is of paramount archaeological importance in India as it has yielded stone tools from all three phases of the Palaeolithic period: Lower, Middle, and Upper. The abundant availability of raw materials and perennial water made this region highly favorable for early humans. Sites along the valley provide a continuous record of human technological evolution and environmental adaptation over hundreds of thousands of years.

**114.** (A) Continued patronage of Buddhist sites under Vaishnavite rulers
The Sanchi Stone inscription from the Gupta period is significant because it records a grant made to the Buddhist establishment by a high-ranking officer. This illustrates the prevailing religious harmony and policy of tolerance during the Gupta era. Although the Gupta monarchs were themselves devout followers of Vaishnavism, they and their officials continued to provide patronage to Buddhist and Jaina institutions, ensuring their survival and prosperity.

**115.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Paribrajaka and Uchchakalpa dynasties were contemporary ruling houses in the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand regions during the fifth and sixth centuries. Their inscriptions and copper-plate grants explicitly acknowledge the suzerainty of the Gupta Empire, typically referring to themselves as feudatories. These smaller kingdoms played a vital role in local administration while ensuring the integration of their regions into the broader Gupta political and cultural framework.

**116.** (C) A is true but R is false.
Raja Bhoja of the Parmar dynasty was a legendary polymath who earned the title 'Kaviraj' for his exceptional scholarship and literary contributions. While he authored many famous works, the 'Samarangana Sutradhara' is actually

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**82.** (A) Struggle for dominance within the Maratha Confederacy
During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the Holkars of Indore and the Sindhias of Gwalior were frequently in conflict. This rivalry was not over religion or territory alone but was primarily a struggle for political supremacy within the Maratha Confederacy. Their internal competition weakened Maratha unity, which the British East India Company eventually exploited to establish its own dominance over central India.

**83.** (C) Boycott of foreign goods and promotion of indigenous products
Inspired by the national movement against the partition of Bengal in 1905, the Swadeshi Movement in Madhya Pradesh focused on economic self-reliance. Public meetings were held in cities like Jabalpur and Sagar to encourage the boycott of British-made cloth and goods. Promoting locally made products became a powerful tool for political mobilization, helping to instill a sense of national identity and resistance against colonial rule.

**84.** (D) Saadat Khan
Saadat Khan was a prominent officer in the Holkar state army who led the 1857 revolt at the Mhow cantonment and Indore. He successfully mobilized Indian soldiers to attack the British residency in Indore, forcing the British officials to flee. Saadat Khan continued to lead the resistance in the Malwa region until he was eventually captured and executed, becoming a hero of the uprising.

**85.** (C) Gond dynasty of Garha-Mandla
Raghunath Shah was the son of the Gond king Shankar Shah of Garha-Mandla. Both were key leaders in the 1857 revolt against British authority in the Mahakoshal region. They used their influence among tribal communities and local soldiers to plan an uprising. Their subsequent arrest and execution in Jabalpur became a major turning point, fueling further resistance against British colonial rule in central India.

**86.** (B) Orchha
Orchha, situated on the banks of the Betwa River, was the historic capital of the Bundela Rajputs. The town is famous for its grand architectural monuments, including the Chaturbhuj Temple and the Ram Raja Temple. Unlike other Hindu temples, the Ram Raja Temple is unique as Lord Rama is worshipped here as a king, reflecting the deep fusion of religious and royal traditions in Bundelkhand.

**87.** (D) Bhimbetka
Bhimbetka is one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in India, offering a continuous record of human presence from the Lower Palaeolithic through to the early historic period. The numerous rock shelters contain paintings and artifacts that document the evolution of human technology, subsistence patterns, and social behavior over several millennia. This long-term habitation makes it a crucial site for understanding prehistoric cultural continuity in central India.

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**88.** (A) Records a donation to the Buddhist Sangha
The inscription of the Kushan king Vashishka found at Sanchi is historically significant as it records a religious donation made to the Buddhist Sangha. This evidence confirms that Kushan political authority extended as far south as the Malwa region. It also demonstrates the continued importance of Sanchi as a major Buddhist center that received patronage from rulers across different dynasties and diverse ethnic backgrounds.

**89.** (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
Man Singh Tomar of Gwalior was a legendary patron of the Dhrupad style of Hindustani music, making Gwalior a major musical hub. However, Tansen was not a contemporary of Man Singh Tomar; Tansen flourished later in the sixteenth century. While Tansen did receive training in the Gwalior musical tradition, he became famous as one of the gems in the court of Emperor Akbar.

**90.** (A) 1949
Following India's independence in 1947, the Nawab of Bhopal initially resisted merging with the Indian Union, preferring to remain independent. However, after persistent internal pressure and negotiations with the Indian government, the princely state of Bhopal formally merged with the Union of India on June 1, 1949. It later became a Part C state before being

**125.** (C) Man Mandir Palace
The Man Mandir Palace, built by Maharaja Man Singh Tomar in the early sixteenth century, is a masterpiece of Rajput architecture within the Gwalior Fort. It is famous for its colorful tile work, ornate carvings, and innovative design. The palace reflects the cultural zenith of the Tomar dynasty and its patronage of arts. It remains one of the most visited historical structures in Madhya Pradesh due to its unique aesthetic and architectural grandeur.

**126.** (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
Different historical events and leaders are linked to specific places in Madhya Pradesh. The Jhanda Satyagraha originated in Jabalpur. The Charan Paduka Massacre occurred in the Chhatarpur district. Ganjan Singh Korku led the Jungle Satyagraha from the Ghoda Dongri region in Betul. Saadat Khan led the 1857 revolt in the Mhow cantonment, marking these locations as vital landmarks in India's struggle for independence.

**127.** (A) Creating states based on linguistic lines.
The reorganization of Madhya Pradesh in 1956 followed the broader national policy of the States Reorganisation Act, which aimed to redraw state boundaries along linguistic lines. This led to the merger of various Hindi-speaking regions, including Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, and Bhopal, into a single state. The goal was to improve administrative efficiency and ensure better cultural and linguistic integration for the people of central India.

**128.** (B) They were tied to a cannon and blown away.
In a brutal act of colonial suppression, the Gond king Shankar Shah and his son Raghunath Shah were executed by the British in September 1857. After being found guilty of planning a rebellion, they were tied to the mouths of cannons and blown away in Jabalpur. This extreme punishment was intended to strike terror into other potential rebels but instead turned them into powerful martyrs for the cause of Indian freedom.

**129.** (B) Satna
The Bharhut Stupa, a significant Buddhist monument from the second century BC, was originally located in the Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. Although much of the structure has been relocated to museums like the Indian Museum in Kolkata, the site remains historically important. The stupa was famous for its detailed stone carvings depicting Jataka tales and scenes from the Buddha's life, representing early Indian narrative art.

**130.** (A) Ujjain
Ujjain is one of the four holy sites in India where the Kumbh Mela is celebrated. Specifically known as the Simhastha Kumbh Mela, it takes place once every twelve years when certain astronomical conditions are met. Millions of pilgrims gather on the banks of the sacred Shipra River for ritual bathing. This event highlights Ujjain's enduring spiritual importance and its deep-rooted cultural heritage in the heart of India.

**131.** (C) copper and stone were used concurrently.
The term 'Chalcolithic' is derived from the Greek words for 'copper' and 'stone', referring to a period of human prehistory that bridge the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. In Madhya Pradesh, this period is characterized by the first appearance of copper tools alongside traditional stone implements. It represents a significant technological advancement as early farming communities began to experiment with metallurgy while still relying on stone for many daily tasks.

**132.** (D) The extension of Kushan political influence into the Malwa region.
The Sanchi inscription of the Kushan king Vashishka is a critical piece of evidence for historians. It records a religious donation made during his reign, which proves that Kushan political authority reached as far south as the Malwa region. This demonstrates that the Kushans were not just a northern power but had successfully expanded their empire into central India, influencing the political and cultural landscape of the region during the second century AD.

**133.** (C) Both Jayanatha and Hastin
The Uchchakalpa and Paribrajaka dynasties, who were feudatories of the Guptas, are well-known through their numerous copper-plate grants. Rulers like Jayanatha and Hastin issued these records to document land grants and religious donations. These inscriptions are

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a comprehensive treatise on architecture, town planning, and Vastu Shastra, not military strategy. His diverse intellectual output covered subjects like grammar, medicine, and philosophy, showcasing the refined culture of his Dhar-based court.

**117.** (C) Ranoji Scindia
Ranoji Scindia was the founder of the Scindia dynasty and a key military commander under the Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao I. He was instrumental in establishing Maratha authority in Malwa and was granted territories that formed the basis of the Scindia state. His leadership laid the foundation for the dynasty's future prominence, eventually leading to the establishment of Gwalior as their primary seat of power.

**118.** (B) 1 and 3 only
The Bundela Rebellion of 1842 was primarily led by Bundela landlords, including Madhukar Shah and Jawahar Singh, who revolted against oppressive British revenue assessments and land policies. While the rebellion was widespread and initially successful in disrupting British administration in the Sagar-Narmada region, it was eventually suppressed by colonial military force. The uprising served as a critical precursor to the much larger freedom struggle that followed in 1857.

**119.** (D) Gwalior
Following the initial outbreak of the 1857 revolt in Neemuch on June 3rd, the movement rapidly spread across Central India. Gwalior became the next major center of activity when the Gwalior Contingent, a British-trained force, revolted on June 14th. The rebellion in Gwalior was particularly significant due to its military strength and strategic location, drawing national attention and further galvanizing resistance against British colonial authority in the region.

**120.** (A) Khajya Nayak
Khajya Nayak was a formidable tribal leader who, along with Bheemaji Nayak, spearheaded the 1857 rebellion in the Nimar region. Initially a British police jamadar, he revolted against colonial injustices and led Bhil warriors in numerous attacks on British interests. He was famous for plundering government treasuries and disrupting colonial communications, becoming a symbol of resistance and a persistent threat to British administrative control in central India.

**121.** (C) Anda
In the architectural design of a Buddhist stupa, such as the Great Stupa at Sanchi, the 'Anda' refers to the solid, hemispherical dome. It symbolizes the universe or the mound of earth that covers the relics of the Buddha. The Anda is the central and most prominent feature of the stupa, often topped by a square railing called the harmika and a central umbrella known as the chhatra.

**122.** (A) The emergence of pottery and ground/polished stone tools.
The transition to the Neolithic period in Madhya Pradesh is marked by significant technological advancements. Unlike the earlier periods characterized by chipped stone tools, the Neolithic era introduced ground and polished stone implements. Another major development was the emergence of pottery, which allowed for better storage of food and water. These changes reflect a shift toward a more settled agricultural life and more complex social organization within ancient communities.

**123.** (D) It praises the Sun God, for whom a temple was built.
The Mandsour inscription, composed by Vatsabhatti, is primarily a religious and social record. While it was written during the reign of Kumaragupta I and Bandhuvarman, its main purpose was to eulogize the Sun God (Surya) and record the construction of a grand temple in His honor by a guild of silk-weavers. The inscription is famous for its poetic quality and its description of the guild's migration and social contributions.

**124.** (B) Padmavati (Pawaya)
The Naga dynasty was a significant regional power during the third and fourth centuries AD. Padmavati, identified with modern-day Pawaya in the Gwalior district, was one of their most important capitals. Along with Vidisha, Mathura, and Kantipuri, it served as a major political and cultural center. The dynasty's influence in central India was eventually ended by the expansion of the Gupta Empire under Samudragupta, as recorded in his historical inscriptions.

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**142.** (D) It contains the name 'Ashoka' along with his title 'Piyadasi'.
The Gurjara inscription is uniquely significant in Mauryan studies because it explicitly mentions the name 'Ashoka' alongside his common title 'Piyadasi'. In most of his other edicts, Ashoka is referred to only by his titles, which initially made it difficult for historians to identify the author. This inscription, found in the Datia district, provided the definitive link between the historical figure of King Ashoka and the widespread edicts of Devanampiya Piyadasi.

**143.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Heliodorus pillar at Besnagar is a remarkable historical monument dedicated to the deity Vasudeva. The inscription on the pillar states that it was erected by Heliodorus, an Indo-Greek ambassador who had embraced the Bhagavata faith, an early form of Vaishnavism. This provides clear evidence that ancient Indian religious traditions, specifically the worship of Vishnu, were influential enough to attract and convert high-ranking foreigners in the second century BC.

**144.** (B) Yashodharman
Yashodharman is the most celebrated ruler of the Oulikar dynasty of Dashapura. He achieved historical fame for his decisive victory over the Huna invader Mihirakula, who had established a reign of terror in north-western India. Yashodharman's success effectively checked the Huna expansion and restored order in the region. He commemorated this great achievement by erecting victory pillars in Mandsaur, which remain as testament to his military prowess and regional dominance.

**145.** (C) A is true but R is false.
The Kachchapaghata dynasty, ruling from centers like Gwalior, were indeed significant patrons of art and architecture, responsible for iconic structures like the Sas-Bahu temple. However, they were not a completely independent imperial power from the start; they initially served as feudatories to the Gurjara-Pratihara Empire. It was only as the Pratihara power declined that the Kachchapaghatas asserted their independence and became a major regional force in northern Madhya Pradesh.

**146.** (A) 1 and 2 only
Malhar Rao Holkar was the distinguished founder of the Holkar dynasty, establishing its importance in Malwa. His daughter-in-law, Ahilyabai Holkar, subsequently moved the administrative capital from Indore to Maheshwar, where she ruled with great benevolence. Contrary to the third statement, the Holkars were not always loyal allies of the British; in fact, rulers like Yashwant Rao Holkar I were among the most fierce opponents of British expansion in India.

**147.** (C) Establishing Maratha supremacy and controlling the Mughal Emperor.
Mahadji Scindia was a visionary statesman who played a pivotal role in reviving Maratha influence after the debacle at Panipat in 1761. He built a modern army and successfully extended Maratha control over north India. His greatest achievement was establishing himself as the protector and de facto ruler of the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. This position made him the most powerful individual in the subcontinent during the late eighteenth century.

**148.** (D) Mughal Empire
The city and princely state of Bhopal were founded by Dost Mohammad Khan, an Afghan soldier who had served in the Mughal army. He took advantage of the political vacuum created by the decline of the Mughal Empire following the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. By providing military protection to local rulers and consolidating his own territories, he established an independent dynasty that ruled Bhopal until its merger with India.

**149.** (C) High revenue assessments and British land policies.
The Bundela Rebellion of 1842 was primarily caused by the deep dissatisfaction among local landlords and chiefs regarding British revenue policies. The colonial administration had imposed high revenue assessments that many landlords found impossible to pay, leading to widespread dispossession and economic hardship. This rebellion in the Sagar and Narmada territories highlighted the intense local resistance to British fiscal and administrative reforms decades before the 1857 uprising.

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were curtailed by British laws. This massive mobilization of the rural population added significant depth and strength to the freedom movement in the region.

**215.** (D) A leader of the Jungle Satyagraha in Betul.
Ganjan Singh Korku is historically honored as a prominent leader of the Ghoda Dongri Jungle Satyagraha, which took place in the Betul district in 1930. He led the Korku tribal community in a non-violent protest against oppressive British forest regulations. His leadership demonstrated the courage of tribal communities in challenging colonial authority and their integral role in the broader Indian freedom movement, particularly in highlighting localized economic and social injustices.

**216.** (A) Besnagar
In ancient times, the city of Vidisha was known as Besnagar and was one of the most prosperous and important urban centers in central India. It is frequently mentioned in ancient Pali Buddhist texts as a major junction on important trade routes and a center of religious life. The discovery of numerous archaeological remains, including the Heliodorus pillar and extensive Buddhist monuments nearby, confirms Vidisha's status as a flourishing administrative, commercial, and spiritual hub in ancient India.

**217.** (C) Raisen
The world-famous Bhimbetka caves are located within the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh. Situated amidst the Vindhyan mountain range, these rock shelters are globally recognized for their extensive collection of prehistoric paintings that date back thousands of years. The site's location in Raisen, surrounded by dense forests and natural rock formations, provided an ideal environment for prehistoric human settlement and continues to be a major site for archaeological research and international tourism.

**218.** (A) Surya (the Sun God)
The Mandsour inscription, composed by the poet Vatsabhatti, records the construction and subsequent renovation of a grand temple dedicated to Surya, the Sun God. This temple was built by a guild of silk-weavers who had migrated to the city of Dashapura (Mandsaur) from the Lata region. The inscription is celebrated for its poetic descriptions of the seasons and the sun, highlighting the social and religious contributions of professional guilds during the Gupta period.

**219.** (D) Kokalla I
Kokalla I was the founder of the Kalchuri dynasty that established its capital at Tripuri, near modern-day Jabalpur. He rose to power in the mid-ninth century and successfully consolidated his authority in the Dahala region. Kokalla I was a capable ruler who formed strategic alliances through marriages with other major dynasties like the Rashtrakutas, paving the way for the Kalchuris to become a significant political and military power in medieval central India.

**220.** (B) Burhanpur
The Faruqi dynasty, which ruled the Khandesh region independently for over two hundred years, established its capital at the city of Burhanpur. Located on the banks of the Tapti River, Burhanpur served as a major strategic, commercial, and administrative center. The city became famous for its refined architecture, including mosques, palaces, and public works, and remained a vital gateway between northern India and the Deccan during the period of Faruqi and later Mughal rule.

**221.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The Scindia dynasty has a long and influential history in Madhya Pradesh. Ranoji Scindia founded the dynasty, establishing its power in Malwa as a Maratha general. The family's capital was later moved to Gwalior, which became their permanent seat of power. Furthermore, Mahadji Scindia was a brilliant statesman who significantly expanded Maratha influence and became the dominant power in North India, protecting the Mughal throne and effectively ruling a vast empire.

**222.** (D) Saadat Khan
Saadat Khan was a prominent military officer who spearheaded the 1857 revolt in the Indore residency area. He led a successful attack on the British residency in Indore, forcing the British resident and other officials to flee the city. Saadat Khan's leadership was crucial in mobilizing soldiers and local citizens against colonial authority in the Malwa region. His defiant actions

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**158.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
The Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri is historically referred to as the Haihaya dynasty, claiming descent from the legendary King Kartavirya Arjuna. Kokalla I was the founder of the original branch of the dynasty that established its capital at Tripuri in the Dahala region, near modern-day Jabalpur. His reign marked the beginning of the Kalchuris' emergence as a major political and military power in central India during the early medieval period.

**159.** (A) Ibrahim Lodi
The Tomar dynasty's control over Gwalior ended in 1518 when Ibrahim Lodi, the last sultan of the Lodi dynasty, captured the Gwalior Fort. After a prolonged siege and the death of Raja Man Singh Tomar, his successor Vikramaditya Tomar was forced to surrender the fort. This victory brought Gwalior under the direct control of the Delhi Sultanate, ending the era of Tomar independence and their significant cultural patronage in the region.

**160.** (D) 1, 2 and 3
The Baghelkhand princely state has a rich history, with the Baghelas claiming descent from the Solanki Rajputs of Gujarat. Raja Vikramaditya is credited with shifting the state capital to Rewa, which became a prominent political center. Furthermore, the legendary musician Tansen served in the court of Raja Ramchandra Singh Baghela, where his fame grew before he was invited to join the illustrious court of the Mughal Emperor Akbar.

**161.** (B) Shivpuri
Tatya Tope, one of the most brilliant and persistent leaders of the 1857 revolt, was captured by the British in the forests of Narwar after being betrayed by an associate. He was subsequently tried by a military court and executed by hanging in the town of Shivpuri on April 18, 1859. His martyrdom marked the end of the major armed resistance of 1857, and he remains a revered hero of Indian independence.

**162.** (A) Seth Govind Das and Dwarka Prasad Mishra
During the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930, the Salt Satyagraha in Madhya Pradesh was led by prominent nationalist leaders like Seth Govind Das and Dwarka Prasad Mishra in Jabalpur. Since the state is landlocked, they symbolically broke the salt law by manufacturing salt in public gatherings. This act of defiance galvanized the people and demonstrated the region's strong support for the national movement led by Mahatma Gandhi.

**163.** (C) The burning of a forest depot during Non-Cooperation.
Badal Bhoi was a dedicated tribal leader who participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement in the Chhindwara region. He led a protest that resulted in the burning of a government forest depot as an act of defiance against colonial exploitation and restrictive forest policies. He was subsequently arrested by the British authorities and died in prison, for which he is honored as a martyr who sacrificed his life for the freedom struggle.

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**164.** (D) The life of the Buddha and the Jataka tales.
The four gateways, or Toranas, of the Great Stupa at Sanchi are world-famous for their intricate and detailed stone carvings. These carvings depict various important events from the life of Gautama Buddha and scenes from the Jataka tales, which tell stories of the Buddha's previous incarnations. The carvings serve as a visual medium for Buddhist teachings and provide invaluable information about the social and cultural life of ancient India.

**165.** (C) River valleys and rock shelters.
Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age sites in Madhya Pradesh are most commonly found in river valleys and rock shelters. Perennial rivers like the Narmada, Chambal, and Betwa provided essential water and attracted wildlife, while the limestone and sandstone rock formations offered natural shelters. These locations provided early humans with the necessary resources for survival, leading to the high concentration of stone tools and prehistoric art found in these geographical settings.

**166.** (B) It is a coarse, gritty pottery with a very fine finish.
The Malwa ware, characteristic of the Chalcolithic Malwa culture, is renowned for its high quality and aesthetic appeal, not for being coarse or gritty. It is typically a black-painted-on-red ware with a fine slip and a smooth finish. The pottery features

gain national and international recognition as a significant tribal art form.

**199.** (D) A unique, sturdy red-slipped ware known as Kayatha Ware.
Kayatha, located near Ujjain, is famous as one of the earliest Chalcolithic sites in India. Its most distinguishing archaeological feature is the discovery of 'Kayatha Ware', a specialized type of sturdy pottery characterized by a thick brown slip and violet-painted designs. This pottery represents a distinct ceramic tradition and provides essential evidence of the technological and artistic capabilities of early agricultural communities that lived in the Malwa region around 4000 years ago.

**200.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The Naga dynasty was a significant political force in central India during the fourth century AD. Their power posed a direct challenge to the rising Gupta Empire. The Allahabad Pillar inscription of Samudragupta explicitly records his military campaigns against various Naga kings, including Ganapatinaga. The Gupta victory over these regional rulers was a crucial step in consolidating their empire and establishing their undisputed supremacy over north and central India.

**201.** (C) Oulikar dynasty
The Oulikar dynasty ruled from Dashapura, modern-day Mandsaur, and is historically significant for its successful resistance against foreign invaders. Its most famous ruler, Yashodharman, achieved a landmark victory over the Huna king Mihirakula in the sixth century. To commemorate this great triumph, he erected two massive victory pillars at Sondani near Mandsaur, which served as enduring monuments to his military power and the restoration of regional order.

**202.** (A) Jejakabhukti
The kingdom ruled by the Chandela dynasty was historically known as Jejakabhukti. This region, which corresponds to the modern-day Bundelkhand area of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, was named after an early Chandela ruler named Jai Shakti (Jejaka). Jejakabhukti became famous during the medieval period for its political independence and the construction of the world-renowned Khajuraho temple complex, representing the zenith of Chandela power and cultural achievement.

**203.** (D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
During the 1857 rebellion, various leaders emerged across Madhya Pradesh. Rani Avantibai was the courageous queen of Ramgarh. Sheikh Ramzan led the Indian soldiers in the Sagar garrison. Shankar Shah was the Gond king of Garha-Mandla who organized the revolt in Jabalpur, while Saadat Khan was a prominent rebel leader from the Mhow cantonment who attacked the British residency in Indore. Each leader played a vital role in their respective regions.

**204.** (B) It made the Tricolour a national symbol of the freedom struggle.
The Jhanda Satyagraha of 1923, which began in Jabalpur and moved to Nagpur, had a profound psychological and symbolic impact on the Indian independence movement. By successfully defying the British ban on hoisting the national flag, the Satyagraha established the tricolour as a powerful and unified symbol of Indian resistance and national pride. This success galvanized the public across the country and reinforced the collective demand for freedom from colonial rule.

**205.** (C) Part A
Before the major reorganization of states in 1956, the administrative region of Central Provinces and Berar was categorized as a Part A state. This region, with its capital at Nagpur, included many of the Hindi-speaking districts that later became the southern and central parts of modern Madhya Pradesh. This structure was a continuation of the colonial administrative setup before being merged with other units to form the unified state of Madhya Pradesh.

**206.** (D) 'Heroes of Nimar'
Khajya Nayak and Bheemaji Nayak are celebrated as the 'Heroes of Nimar' for their extraordinary leadership during the 1857 revolt in southwestern Madhya Pradesh. As Bhil leaders, they organized a formidable tribal resistance against British forces, using the rugged terrain of the Nimar region to conduct guerrilla warfare. Their courage and commitment to defending their land from colonial exploitation have made them

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**175.** (A) Nagpur
The Jhanda Satyagraha began in Jabalpur in 1923 as a local protest but rapidly transformed into a movement of national significance. After the initial events in Jabalpur, the All India Congress Committee decided to shift the center of the agitation to Nagpur to challenge the British government more effectively. This strategic move successfully broadened the Satyagraha's impact, drawing volunteers from across India and ultimately securing a symbolic victory for the national flag's honor.

**176.** (B) A system of levying tax for distribution to the poor.
The term 'pagdi', in the context of Tantya Bheel's revolutionary methods, referred to a voluntary contribution or levy he collected from the wealthy and government officials. He used this wealth to support the needy and oppressed tribal communities, effectively acting as a social redistributor. This practice, combined with his fight against colonial exploitation, helped establish his reputation as a benevolent 'Robin Hood' figure among the people of the Nimar region.

**177.** (B) It has a Dravidian style shikhara on a North Indian base.
The Teli ka Mandir in Gwalior Fort is architecturally unique because it combines different Indian regional styles. While its base and structural layout follow the Nagara style of North India, its towering roof, or shikhara, is designed in the Dravidian style typical of South India. This architectural fusion makes it a rare and significant monument, reflecting the diverse cultural and artistic influences that met in central India during the early medieval period.

**178.** (A) A massive stone statue of Varaha (the boar incarnation of Vishnu)
The archaeological site of Eran is famous for its colossal stone statue of Varaha, the boar incarnation of Lord Vishnu, dating to the Gupta period. This massive monolith is intricately carved with numerous figures and contains a significant inscription from the reign of the Huna King Toramana. The statue is a masterpiece of early Indian religious art and serves as a testament to the region's historical and spiritual importance during the Gupta-Huna transition.

**179.** (C) Scenes involving warriors on horseback, battles, and religious symbols.
As prehistoric rock art in Madhya Pradesh evolved through the ages, the subject matter became more complex. In later periods, such as the early historic and medieval eras, the paintings moved beyond simple hunting scenes. They began to depict warriors on horseback, organized battle scenes, and various religious and auspicious symbols. These later artworks reflect the emergence of more structured societies, advanced warfare, and the growing influence of organized religious traditions in the region.

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**180.** (D) It states Heliodorus adopted the Bhagavata faith.
The Besnagar Garuddhwaja Pillar inscription is historically vital because it provides clear epigraphic evidence of a foreigner adopting an Indian religious tradition. It states that Heliodorus, an Indo-Greek ambassador, was a 'Bhagavata', meaning a devotee of the deity Vasudeva (Vishnu). This confirms the widespread appeal and influence of early Vaishnavism and demonstrates the inclusive nature of Indian religious and social structures during the second century BC in central India.

**181.** (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
The history of Madhya Pradesh is defined by the founders of its major dynasties. Kokalla I founded the Kalchuri dynasty of Tripuri. Upendra, also known as Krishnaraja, was the founder of the Parmar dynasty of Malwa. Yasovarman was a significant early ruler who established the power of the Chandela dynasty in Jejakabhukti, while Ranoji Scindia was the founder of the Scindia dynasty that eventually ruled from Gwalior.

**182.** (B) Vidisha
After the fall of the Mauryas, Vidisha emerged as a primary center of power during the Sunga period. It served as a major administrative headquarters and a flourishing hub for trade and culture. The construction of the Heliodorus pillar and the renovation of the Bharhut and Sanchi stupas during this era reflect Vidisha's strategic and religious importance. The city remained a focal point of North Indian politics and religious life for several centuries following the Mauryan decline.

**183.** (D) It was ruled by a succession of powerful Begums for over a century.
The princely state of Bhopal is uniquely distinguished in Indian history for being governed by a continuous line of four female rulers, known as the Begums of Bhopal, from 1819 to 1926. These rulers, starting with Qudsia Begum and ending with Sultan Jahan Begum, were capable administrators who introduced modern reforms in education, health, and infrastructure. Their leadership ensured the state's stability and development, making Bhopal a prominent center of culture and progressive governance.

**184.** (A) The Scindias and Holkars were both adversely affected.
The Treaty of Bassein in 1802, signed between the Peshwa and the British, severely undermined the independence of the Maratha Confederacy. Both the Scindias and the Holkars, the two most powerful Maratha houses in Madhya Pradesh, were directly affected by its terms as it signaled increasing British interference in Maratha affairs. This dissatisfaction led directly to the Second Anglo-Maratha War, as these states sought to protect their sovereignty from encroaching British colonial power.

**185.** (C) Betul
The Ghoda Dongri Jungle Satyagraha took place in the Betul district during the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930. Led by the tribal hero Ganjan Singh Korku, the movement was a powerful protest against restrictive British forest laws. Tribal participants symbolically broke colonial regulations by cutting grass and wood from government reserves. This event highlighted the active and organized participation of tribal communities in the national struggle for freedom and their resistance against economic exploitation.

**186.** (A) Planning an anti-British rebellion in the Gondwana region during 1857.
Raghunath Shah, alongside his father Shankar Shah, was a central figure in organizing the resistance against British rule in the Mahakoshal region during the 1857 uprising. They utilized their royal status in the Gond dynasty to mobilize tribal warriors and soldiers for a planned rebellion in Jabalpur. Their eventual arrest and brutal execution by the British authorities made them revered martyrs, inspiring further revolutionary activities across the central Indian heartland.

**187.** (D) Gupta period
The Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh is a masterpiece of Gupta period architecture and is one of the earliest known stone temples in North India. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it features the iconic Nagara-style shikhara and elaborate stone carvings depicting various mythological scenes, including Vishnu reclining on the serpent Shesha. The temple represents the refined aesthetic and architectural sophistication achieved during the 'Golden Age' of the Gupta Empire in central India.

**188.** (B) Omkareshwar
Omkareshwar is a holy city situated on an island called Mandhata in the Narmada River, where it is joined by a smaller stream often referred to as the Kaveri. It is famous for being home to one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the Omkareshwar temple. The island is shaped like the sacred Hindu symbol 'Om', making it a major pilgrimage center that has attracted devotees and scholars for centuries.

**189.** (C) Palaeolithic tools were crude and chipped, while Neolithic tools were polished and ground.
A fundamental technological distinction between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods lies in the refinement of stone tools. Palaeolithic tools were typically large, crude, and made by chipping away pieces of stone to create sharp edges. In contrast, Neolithic tools were meticulously ground and polished to create much smoother, more durable, and more specialized implements. This advancement allowed for more efficient agricultural work and craftsmanship, marking a major step in human technological progress.

**190.** (D) Belief that superimposition enhanced magical potency.
Archaeologists suggest that the frequent superimposition of paintings in rock shelters like Bhimbetka was not due to a lack of space. Instead, it is often believed that prehistoric humans drew new images over older ones because the specific rock surface was considered sacred or possessed magical power. By adding their own art to these potent locations, successive generations hoped to harness the spiritual or magical energy associated with the site for success in hunting or rituals.

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**191.** (D) It primarily records a grant for the maintenance of the Buddhist establishment at Sanchi.
The Sanchi Stone inscription from the Gupta period is a significant historical document that primarily records a generous endowment. An officer of the Gupta Empire named Amrakardava made a grant to the Buddhist community at the Great Stupa to provide for the feeding of monks and the lighting of lamps. This inscription is important as it demonstrates the continued patronage and flourishing of Buddhist institutions under the overall administration of the Vaishnavite Gupta monarchs.

**192.** (B) Paribrajaka dynasty
The Paribrajaka dynasty, also known as the Paribrajaka Maharajas, ruled the Bundelkhand region during the fifth and sixth centuries AD. They were significant feudatories of the Gupta Empire, and their copper-plate grants provide valuable information about the local administration and social life of that era. The term 'Paribrajaka' suggests a connection to an ascetic tradition, reflecting the unique cultural and religious background of this ruling family within the Gupta political system.

**193.** (B) Ujjain
The Parmar dynasty, which rose to prominence in Malwa after the decline of the Gurjara-Pratiharas, initially established its capital at Ujjain. The city, known as Ujjayini in ancient times, was a major political and religious hub. It was only during the later reign of rulers like Vakpatiraja Munja and Raja Bhoja that the administrative center was shifted to Dhar, which then became the primary capital and a celebrated seat of learning and culture.

**194.** (A) They successfully resisted and were never conquered.
Although the Chandela dynasty was a formidable power and built the magnificent Khajuraho temples, they were not permanently unconquerable. Their kingdom, Jejakabhukti, faced several invasions over the centuries. Their power began to decline significantly after being defeated by Prithviraj Chauhan in the twelfth century and later by the forces of the Delhi Sultanate. Eventually, the region was integrated into larger empires, ending the period of sovereign Chandela rule in Bundelkhand.

**195.** (A) 2, 3, 1, 4
The historical timeline of these regional powers begins with the reign of Rani Durgavati of Gondwana in the sixteenth century. This was followed by the establishment of the Bhopal State by Dost Mohammad Khan in the early eighteenth century. Malhar Rao Holkar founded the Holkar dynasty in the 1730s, and Mahadji Scindia subsequently became the dominant Maratha power in northern India during the late eighteenth century.

**196.** (D) Jabalpur
During the Quit India Movement in 1942, Jabalpur emerged as a major center of student-led anti-British protests. A massive procession led by students was organized to demand an end to colonial rule. The British authorities responded with force, leading to police firing on the demonstrators. This event further intensified the nationalist sentiment in the Mahakoshal region and highlighted the significant role of the youth in the final phase of India's independence struggle.

**197.** (C) The Nimar region (between the Narmada and Tapti)
Bheemaji Nayak focused his revolutionary struggle against British rule primarily in the Nimar region, located between the Narmada and Tapti rivers. This geographically challenging area, consisting of hills and dense forests, provided an ideal base for his guerrilla tactics. From here, he led the Bhil warriors in disrupting colonial administration and attacking British outposts during the 1857 uprising, making him a central figure in the history of tribal resistance in southwestern Madhya Pradesh.

**198.** (B) Pithora Painting
Pema Falya was a master artist who played a crucial role in the preservation and popularization of Pithora painting, a traditional ritualistic art form of the Bhil and Bhilala tribes. These paintings, usually done on the walls of houses, are deeply connected with tribal mythology and spiritual beliefs. Through his exceptional skill and dedication, Pema Falya helped this unique cultural heritage of Madhya Pradesh

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**150.** (B) Raghuraj Singh
During the 1857 revolt, Raja Raghuraj Singh of the princely state of Rewa chose to support the British government. He provided military assistance and ensured that his territories remained largely stable, preventing the rebellion from gaining a stronger foothold in the Baghelkhand region. His loyalty was recognized by the British after the revolt was suppressed, leading to continued British favor and various rewards for the Rewa state and its ruling family.

**151.** (C) Bheemaji Nayak
Bheemaji Nayak was a legendary Bhil leader and a prominent freedom fighter from the Nimar region. During the 1857 uprising, he organized a strong resistance against British forces, using the rugged terrain to launch effective guerrilla attacks. He became a symbol of tribal defiance against colonial exploitation and administrative overreach. His contributions are commemorated as a vital part of the history of the freedom movement in southwestern Madhya Pradesh.

**152.** (A) Mesolithic
The Adamgarh rock shelters are critically important in Indian archaeology for providing the earliest evidence of animal domestication, dating back to the Mesolithic period. Excavations conducted at the site uncovered the remains of domesticated animals like cattle, sheep, and goats alongside microlithic stone tools. This discovery marks a fundamental shift in human history from a purely hunter-gatherer existence toward the beginning of a settled, pastoral lifestyle in central India.

**153.** (C) Scenes of group hunting, fishing, and dancing.
The rock paintings from the Mesolithic period in Madhya Pradesh primarily focus on the daily life and survival strategies of ancient human groups. The most common subjects include collective hunting of wild animals, fishing activities, and social celebrations like dancing. These vibrant paintings, often made with natural red and white pigments, provide a visual narrative of the communal interactions, social organization, and environmental relationship of Mesolithic societies in the region.

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**154.** (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
Madhya Pradesh is home to numerous historical sites located in various districts. Bhimbetka's rock shelters are in Raisen. Besnagar, known for the Heliodorus pillar, is in Vidisha. Adamgarh's significant prehistoric remains are found in Hoshangabad (now Narmadapuram). Eran, famous for its ancient inscriptions and monuments, is situated in the Sagar district. These sites collectively represent the rich and diverse archaeological heritage of the state.

**155.** (D) Rupnath Minor Rock Edict
The Rupnath Minor Rock Edict is an important Ashokan inscription located on the Kaimur hills in the Katni district. Like other minor edicts, it records Ashoka's early efforts to promote the principles of Dharma among his subjects. The inscription is written in the Brahmi script and serves as crucial evidence of the geographical extent of Mauryan influence and the dissemination of Ashokan policy in the central Indian heartland.

**156.** (B) The Gupta king's personal involvement in the conquest of Malwa.
The Udayagiri Cave inscription specifically mentions that Chandragupta II's minister, Virasena Saba, accompanied the king on a military expedition to conquer the world. This provides direct historical evidence of the king's personal leadership during his campaigns to annex the Saka-ruled territories of Malwa and Gujarat. The inscription reinforces the narrative of the Gupta expansion westward and the strategic importance of the Vidisha region during this period.

**157.** (C) Architecture and Town Planning
The 'Samarangana Sutradhara' is a monumental work authored by Raja Bhoja of the Parmar dynasty. It is an encyclopedic treatise on classical Indian architecture, town planning, and Vastu Shastra. The text covers a vast range of topics, including temple construction, the building of palaces, and even descriptions of mechanical devices. This work remains a primary source for understanding the refined artistic and engineering knowledge of eleventh-century India.

legendary figures in the regional history of the freedom struggle.

**207.** (A) Besnagar (Vidisha)
The Heliodorus pillar is a world-famous archaeological monument located at the site of Besnagar, near modern-day Vidisha. Erected in the second century BC, it is a monolithic stone column topped by a Garuda. The pillar's inscription is a critical historical source, recording the arrival of an Indo-Greek ambassador who had embraced the Bhagavata faith. This monument serves as a unique testament to the cross-cultural religious interactions between the Greek and Indian worlds.

**208.** (B) Mandu
The palaces of Baz Bahadur and Rani Roopmati are among the most iconic and romantic monuments located in the historic hill fort of Mandu. These structures reflect the refined Afghan architectural style of the Malwa Sultanate and are legendary for the tragic love story associated with them. Mandu's high elevation and scenic beauty, combined with these magnificent architectural remains, make it a premier destination for studying the medieval history and culture of Madhya Pradesh.

**209.** (B) Small, geometric stone tools known as microliths
The Mesolithic period in Madhya Pradesh is technologically defined by the widespread use of microliths. These are very small, finely crafted stone tools, often geometric in shape like triangles or trapezes, that were designed to be hafted onto wooden or bone handles to create more efficient arrows and spears. This shift towards smaller, more specialized tools reflects an advancement in hunting and gathering techniques and the beginning of a more varied human diet.

**210.** (A) Yashodharman
In his famous Mandsaur victory pillar inscription, the Oulikar ruler Yashodharman claimed a remarkable territorial extent. He stated that his authority was recognized over a vast region stretching from the Himalayas to the Mahendra mountains and from the Arabian Sea to the Brahmaputra River. This grand claim highlighted his military achievements, particularly his defeat of the Huna king Mihirakula, and portrayed him as an imperial power superior to both the Guptas and the Hunas.

**211.** (C) Bhojshala
Raja Bhoja of the Parmar dynasty was a great patron of learning and established a famous educational institution in his capital Dhar known as the Bhojshala. This center was dedicated to the goddess Saraswati and served as a premier hub for Sanskrit studies, attracting scholars and students from across India. The Bhojshala remains a significant historical and cultural site, representing the intellectual and cultural zenith of the Parmar dynasty's rule in Malwa.

**212.** (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
During the late eighteenth century, the Sindhia dynasty of Gwalior and the Holkar dynasty of Indore were frequently engaged in political and military conflicts. These disputes were primarily driven by a struggle for supreme influence over the Maratha Peshwa and dominance within the Maratha Confederacy. This internal rivalry for the control of Malwa and north Indian politics ultimately weakened the Marathas and facilitated the steady expansion of British colonial authority in the region.

**213.** (C) The rebellion was brutally suppressed, and its leaders were executed or imprisoned.
Despite its widespread nature and initial success in disrupting British administration, the Bundela Rebellion of 1842 was eventually crushed by British military force. The colonial government used overwhelming power to suppress the uprising in the Sagar and Narmada territories. Many of the primary leaders, including Madhukar Shah, were captured and executed, while others were imprisoned or forced into exile. This brutal suppression ended the rebellion but left behind deep-seated resentment against British rule.

**214.** (B) It directly involved and mobilized the tribal and rural populations.
The Forest or Jungle Satyagraha was a landmark event in the Civil Disobedience Movement in Madhya Pradesh because it succeeded in drawing the tribal and rural masses into the national struggle. Unlike movements that were restricted to urban elites, the Forest Satyagraha addressed the direct economic grievances of forest-dwelling communities whose traditional rights

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diverse geometric and naturalistic designs, representing one of the most sophisticated ceramic traditions of the Chalcolithic period in India and reflecting the advanced craft skills of early farming communities.

**167.** (D) An image inscription recording a donation.
The presence of Kushan rule in the Sanchi region is confirmed by an inscription found on a Buddhist image. This inscription specifically mentions the name of the Kushan King Vashishka and records a donation made to the Buddhist community during his reign. Such image inscriptions are vital historical markers as they provide concrete evidence of the political authority and religious patronage of rulers in specific geographical areas during the early centuries of the common era.

**168.** (A) In the late 19th century (1878-1889)
Tantya Bheel was a legendary tribal leader active in the late nineteenth century. He led an armed resistance against British colonial rule and the exploitative practices of local moneylenders and officials. Known for his guerrilla warfare and for distributing looted government wealth to the needy, he gained the title of 'Indian Robin Hood'. His struggle continued until his eventual capture and execution by the British authorities in 1889.

**169.** (C) Padmavati
The historical site of Pawaya, located in the Gwalior district, has been identified by archaeologists and historians as the ancient city of Padmavati. This city was one of the major capitals of the Naga dynasty that ruled parts of central and northern India between the second and fourth centuries AD. Padmavati was a prosperous center of administration, trade, and culture before the Naga power was eventually integrated into the Gupta Empire.

**170.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
Vidyadhara, the Chandela monarch, is renowned for his military confrontation with Mahmud of Ghazni in the early eleventh century. Recognizing the threat posed by the Turkic invasions, Vidyadhara organized a powerful alliance of regional Indian rulers to defend their territories. His strategic preparedness and the formidable strength of the confederacy's forces successfully countered Mahmud's advance, making Vidyadhara a central figure in the medieval resistance against foreign incursions in central India.

**171.** (D) Sas-Bahu Temple (Sahastrabahu Temple)
The Kachchapaghata dynasty is credited with building the magnificent Sas-Bahu temple, also known as the Sahastrabahu temple, within the Gwalior Fort complex. Constructed in the late eleventh century, the temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and is famous for its intricate carvings and architectural grandeur. Despite its popular name, the temple remains a pinnacle of Nagara-style architecture, showcasing the high level of artistic patronage under the Kachchapaghata rulers in northern Madhya Pradesh.

**172.** (B) Mahadji
Mahadji Scindia was a prominent ruler of the Scindia dynasty of Gwalior, not the Holkar dynasty. In contrast, Malhar Rao Holkar was the founder of the Holkar state, Ahilyabai Holkar was its most celebrated female ruler, and Yashwant Rao Holkar I was known for his military prowess against the British. The Scindias and Holkars were both major Maratha powers in Madhya Pradesh, but they represented distinct dynasties with their own separate histories.

**173.** (C) Chauragarh
During the reign of Rani Durgavati, the strategic fort of Chauragarh served as a major capital and stronghold of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Mandla. Located on a hilltop, the fort provided natural defense and served as a center of administration and military planning. It was at Chauragarh that much of the kingdom's wealth was kept, and it became a primary target for the Mughal forces during their invasion of Gondwana in 1564.

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**174.** (D) Sheikh Ramzan
Sheikh Ramzan was a key leader of the 1857 revolt in the Sagar region of Madhya Pradesh. He led the Indian soldiers of the Sagar garrison in their uprising against the British officers. His leadership was instrumental in mobilizing the local resistance and disrupting colonial authority in the northern part of the state. Sheikh Ramzan remains an important figure in the history of the 1857 struggle for his role in central India's defiance.

against the British established him as a key hero of the 1857 uprising in central India.

**223.** (A) Chhindwara
Badal Bhoi was a courageous tribal freedom fighter who hailed from the Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh. He is revered for leading the tribal community in their struggle against British colonial rule, particularly during the Non-Cooperation Movement. His dedication to the cause led to his arrest and eventual martyrdom in jail. Today, a tribal museum in Chhindwara is named in his honor, commemorating his significant contribution to the regional and national freedom struggle.

**224.** (B) Vidyadhara
The Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, the largest and most magnificent of the Khajuraho temple group, was built during the reign of the Chandela King Vidyadhara. Constructed in the early eleventh century, the temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is world-renowned for its intricate carvings and architectural perfection. Vidyadhara's patronage reflects the peak of Chandela power and artistic achievement, as the temple serves as a masterpiece of Nagara-style architecture and medieval Indian sculpture.

**225.** (B) A hominid (early human) skull cap
The prehistoric site of Hathnora, located on the banks of the Narmada River, is of global archaeological importance due to the discovery of a fossilized hominid skull cap. Often referred to as 'Narmada Man', this fossil represents some of the oldest human remains found in the Indian subcontinent. The discovery provides critical evidence for the presence of early human species in central India and has significantly contributed to our understanding of human evolution in South Asia.

**226.** (A) Satavahana Dynasty
While the core structure of the Great Stupa at Sanchi was built during the Mauryan period, the four elaborately carved stone gateways, or Toranas, were added later during the rule of the Satavahana dynasty. These gateways are famous for their detailed narrative sculptures depicting scenes from the life of the Buddha and the Jataka tales. The Satavahana patronage transformed the stupa into a spectacular monument, showcasing the refined craftsmanship and artistic vibrancy of ancient Indian Buddhist art.

**227.** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
The rule of the four Begums of Bhopal is widely considered a golden era in the state's history. Rulers like Sikandar Begum and Shah Jahan Begum were visionary leaders who prioritized public welfare and social reform. They introduced modern administrative systems, established schools and hospitals, and promoted arts and literature. Their progressive governance ensured peace and prosperity in Bhopal, making it a model princely state during a century of significant political and social transformation in India.

**228.** (D) Refusal to recognize her adopted successor.
Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh took up arms against the British in 1857 primarily because of the colonial administration's refusal to recognize her right to rule. After her husband's death and her son being declared a minor, the British placed the state under their own administration, effectively disinheriting the royal family. Avantibai's rebellion was a direct response to this policy of dispossession, as she sought to protect her kingdom's sovereignty and her family's legitimate rights.

**229.** (C) Seoni
The Turia Jungle Satyagraha was a significant event that occurred in the Seoni district during the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930. Led by local tribal and nationalist leaders, the Satyagraha was a protest against restrictive colonial forest laws that hindered the livelihood of the people. This non-violent movement demonstrated the deep-seated resistance against British administrative overreach and the active participation of the forest-dwelling communities of the Mahakoshal region in the broader national struggle for independence.

**230.** (B) Buddhist monuments housing relics.
The stupas of Sanchi are quintessential Buddhist monuments designed to serve as commemorative structures and repositories for sacred relics. The Great Stupa, in particular, was built to house the bodily remains of Gautama Buddha. These hemispherical mounds, surrounded by railings

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surviving stone railings and gateways are world-famous for their intricate narrative carvings. These carvings depict scenes from the Buddha's life and various Jataka stories, providing invaluable insights into early Buddhist philosophy and the social life and artistic traditions of ancient India during the second century BC.

**263.** (D) Beginning of agriculture and settled life.
The Neolithic Revolution is fundamentally defined by a monumental shift in human lifestyle from nomadic hunting and gathering to settled agriculture. This transition included the systematic cultivation of crops and the domestication of animals, allowing for the creation of more stable and larger communities. In Madhya Pradesh, this period led to the development of permanent villages, the first use of pottery for storage, and the creation of polished stone tools, laying the foundation for all subsequent human civilizations.

**264.** (A) A donation by his minister Virasena for the construction of a Siva cave.
The Udayagiri Cave inscription from the reign of Chandragupta II specifically records a pious act by his minister Virasena Saba. It states that Virasena, out of his devotion to Lord Shiva, commissioned the excavation of a cave temple. This inscription is historically important as it highlights the religious activities of high-ranking Gupta officials and provides direct evidence of the prevalence and official patronage of Shaivism alongside Vaishnavism during the Gupta period in the Vidisha region.

**265.** (C) The Moon God (Chandravansha).
The Chandela dynasty claimed their descent from the Moon God, thus identifying themselves as members of the Chandravanshi lineage. This mythological origin served to enhance their royal prestige and legitimacy as they rose to power in the Jejakabhukti region. The Chandelas maintained this identity throughout their long rule, during which they became famous as one of the major Rajput clans of medieval India and for building the spectacular temple complex at Khajuraho.

**266.** (A) Upendra (Krishnaraja)
Upendra, also known as Krishnaraja, is historically recognized as the founder of the Parmar dynasty in the late eighth or early ninth century. He established the dynasty's initial power in the Malwa region as a feudatory of the Rashtrakutas. His leadership laid the foundation for the Parmars to eventually become an independent and dominant imperial power in central India, reaching their cultural and political peak under later illustrious rulers like Vakpatiraja Munja and Raja Bhoja.

**267.** (D) Yashwant Rao Holkar I
Yashwant Rao Holkar I was a formidable Maratha leader who earned the title of 'Napoleon of India' for his brilliant military tactics. During the Second Anglo-Maratha War, he successfully confronted British forces in several major engagements, famously defeating the armies of Colonel Monson and resisting Lord Lake. His fierce commitment to Maratha independence and his ability to repeatedly challenge the expanding power of the British East India Company made him a legendary hero in central Indian history.

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**268.** (B) The Scindia ruler remained loyal to the British, but his army rebelled.
During the 1857 revolt, the situation in Gwalior was unique and complex. While Maharaja Jayajirao Scindia and his prime minister chose to remain loyal to the British, a large part of the Gwalior Contingent and the royal army revolted. The rebel soldiers joined the forces of Rani Lakshmibai and Tatya Tope, taking control of the Gwalior Fort and the city. This created a significant challenge for both the British and the loyalist Scindia administration during the height of the uprising.

**269.** (C) Betwa
The historic town of Orchha is beautifully situated on the banks of the Betwa River in the Tikamgarh district. The river's picturesque setting and its strategic location were key reasons why the Bundela Rajputs chose it as their capital in the sixteenth century. The palaces and temples of Orchha, built by various Bundela rulers, overlook the Betwa, creating a unique architectural landscape that reflects the region's rich history and cultural fusion in central India.

**270.** (D) Narmada and Son
Amarkantak, located in the Anuppur district on the Maikal hills, is of immense geographical and

administration. Bandhuvarma's reign reflects the organized administrative structure and cultural prosperity of the Mandsaur region under the Oulikars.

**239.** (A) Indore and Gwalior
After the formation of the state of Madhya Bharat in 1948, a unique administrative arrangement was established. Two cities, Indore and Gwalior, both major centers of the former princely states, served as the state's capital. Gwalior functioned as the winter capital for six months, while Indore served as the summer capital for the remaining six months. This arrangement reflected the significant political and historical roles played by both cities within the newly formed state before the 1956 reorganization.

**240.** (B) Shivpuri
The Chhatris, or ornate stone cenotaphs, dedicated to the Scindia rulers of Gwalior are located in the town of Shivpuri. These beautiful structures, built in marble and stone, blend Hindu and Islamic architectural styles and are set within landscaped gardens. They serve as grand memorials to various members of the Scindia family, highlighting Shivpuri's historical role as the summer capital and a significant cultural center for the Scindia dynasty in northern Madhya Pradesh.

**241.** (B) Kayatha
While Bhimbetka, Adamgarh, and Likhichhaj are all well-known for their significant prehistoric and early historic rock paintings, Kayatha is not a rock art site. Kayatha is primarily an archaeological site famous for its early Chalcolithic settlement remains, including unique pottery and copper tools. Unlike the rock shelters that provided canvases for ancient artists, Kayatha represents an early settled village culture that contributed to the technological and agricultural development of prehistoric central India.

**242.** (A) The Sakas
The Gardabhilla dynasty, which ruled the Ujjain region during the first century BC, was overthrown by the Shakas, a group of nomadic Central Asian invaders. This conflict is a major theme in Indian historical traditions, leading to the temporary displacement of local rulers. The eventual expulsion of the Shakas from Ujjain is credited to the legendary King Vikramaditya, an event that became the traditional basis for the establishment of the Vikram Samvat era.

**243.** (C) Dhrupad
Raja Man Singh Tomar of Gwalior is traditionally credited with a pivotal role in the development and promotion of the Dhrupad style of Hindustani classical music. A passionate lover of music, he established Gwalior as a premier center of musical learning and authored a influential work on music called 'Man Kautuhal'. His patronage ensured the refinement and preservation of Dhrupad, which remains one of the most prestigious and ancient genres of Indian classical music.

**244.** (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
Ahilyabai Holkar is remembered not as a warrior who personally fought on the battlefield, but as an exceptionally wise and benevolent administrator. She focused her long and stable reign on the welfare of her subjects and the promotion of religion and culture. Her legacy is defined by the extensive construction and renovation of temples, river ghats, and social facilities in places as far apart as Varanasi, Gaya, and Rameshwaram, demonstrating her Pan-Indian religious vision.

**245.** (C) King Bhoja
The 'Saraswati Kanthabharan' is a celebrated and comprehensive work on Sanskrit grammar and poetics authored by the polymath King Bhoja of the Parmar dynasty. Known as a 'Kaviraj' or king among poets, Bhoja was a prolific writer who produced authoritative texts on various subjects, including medicine and architecture. This work reflects the high level of intellectual and literary achievement that flourished in his capital, Dhar, under his enlightened and scholarly patronage.

**246.** (B) Nagpur
The first session of the Central Provinces Political Conference was held in Nagpur in 1905, coinciding with the rise of the Swadeshi movement across India. This conference served as a vital platform for local leaders to mobilize public opinion against the partition of Bengal and to encourage the boycott of British goods. It marked the beginning of organized nationalist political activity in the Central Provinces, laying

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and ornate gateways, became central objects of devotion and pilgrimage. Sanchi represents the enduring legacy of Buddhist architecture and philosophy, reflecting the state's historical importance as a major center of religious and cultural activity.

**231.** (D) Mesolithic
Microliths are the hallmark technological feature of the Mesolithic period, or the Middle Stone Age. These tiny, precisely shaped stone tools were designed to be used as components of larger composite tools, such as arrows, spears, and sickles. The transition from the large, crude stone tools of the Palaeolithic to these specialized microliths reflects a more advanced understanding of tool-making and a more efficient approach to hunting and gathering in the changing environments of prehistoric central India.

**232.** (A) Yasovarman
The Lakshmana Temple at Khajuraho was commissioned by the Chandela King Yasovarman in the mid-tenth century. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, this temple is one of the earliest and most beautifully preserved examples of Nagara-style architecture in the complex. Its construction marked the rising power of the Chandela dynasty and their significant patronage of religious art. The temple is famous for its intricate friezes and detailed sculptures, showcasing the artistic brilliance of the early Chandela period.

**233.** (C) The Mauryas of Magadha
The Mauryas of Magadha were not contemporary rivals of the Parmars of Malwa, as they ruled centuries before the Parmar dynasty emerged. The Parmars rose to power in the medieval period, long after the fall of the Mauryan Empire. Their actual contemporary rivals included the Chandelas of Jejakabhukti, the Kalchuris of Tripuri, and the Chalukyas of Gujarat, with whom they frequently engaged in political and military struggles for regional supremacy in central and western India.

**234.** (A) Dhar
The historic city of Mandu is located within the Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. Situated on a high plateau of the Vindhyan range, Mandu served as the magnificent capital of the independent Malwa Sultanate during the medieval period. Its strategic location and extensive architectural remains, including palaces, mosques, and tombs, make it a significant historical site that reflects the cultural and political importance of the Dhar region in the history of central India.

**235.** (D) Near Jabalpur
The historical site of Tripuri is located near modern-day Jabalpur. It was the ancient capital of the Kalchuri dynasty and is famous in modern history for hosting the 1939 session of the Indian National Congress. This session, held at Tripuri, was a significant event where Subhash Chandra Bose was re-elected as President, highlighting the region's importance as a center of political activity and its deep roots in India's medieval and modern history.

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**236.** (B) Cellular Jail, Port Blair
Bheemaji Nayak, the heroic Bhil leader who led the 1857 resistance in the Nimar region, was eventually captured by the British authorities. Due to his significant role in the uprising and the threat he posed to colonial rule, he was sentenced to life imprisonment and deported to the infamous Cellular Jail in Port Blair, Andaman Islands. He spent his final years in exile, where he eventually died, becoming a martyr in the struggle for Indian independence.

**237.** (C) Burhanpur
The Asirgarh Fort is situated in the Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh. Historically renowned as the 'Gateway to the Deccan', its strategic location on the Satpura range made it one of the most important and well-fortified strongholds in central India. Control over Asirgarh was essential for any power seeking to expand from northern India into the Deccan plateau, making it a focal point of many major military campaigns through the centuries.

**238.** (D) Bandhuvarma
Bandhuvarma was a prominent ruler of the Oulikar dynasty of Dashapura (modern Mandsaur) during the fifth century AD. He served as a local governor under the suzerainty of the Gupta Emperor Kumaragupta I. His name is famously preserved in the Mandsour inscription, which records the construction of a Sun temple by a guild of silk-weavers during his

1859. This event marked a major turning point in the suppression of the 1857 uprising in central India.

**255.** (A) Bison/Gaur
In the extensive prehistoric rock art found at Bhimbetka, the bison or Gaur is the animal most frequently depicted. These paintings show the animal in various sizes and styles, often in scenes of group hunting. The frequent representation of the bison reflects its importance as a major source of food and its symbolic significance for the prehistoric hunter-gatherer societies that inhabited the rock shelters of the Vindhyan range for millennia.

**256.** (B) Man-made caves, mostly Hindu and some Jaina in religious affiliation.
The Udayagiri caves near Vidisha are a series of twenty man-made, rock-cut chambers dating primarily to the Gupta period. They are of immense religious and historical importance as they house some of the earliest and most spectacular Hindu and Jaina sculptures in India. The caves are famous for their elaborate carvings of deities and mythological scenes, including the iconic Varaha relief, reflecting the official patronage and refined artistic standards of the Gupta monarchs and their officials.

**257.** (B) Gwalior
The Gwalior Fort is famously referred to as the 'Gibraltar of India' due to its formidable defensive capabilities and strategic location on a high sandstone plateau. For centuries, the fort was considered nearly impregnable and played a crucial role in controlling the major trade routes of central and northern India. Its massive walls, grand palaces, and historic importance have made it a landmark of Indian military architecture and a central site in the regional history of Madhya Pradesh.

**258.** (A) Bundelkhand
The Paribrajaka dynasty governed parts of the Bundelkhand region during the fifth and sixth centuries AD. They were important feudatories who acknowledged the overall authority of the Gupta Empire in their official records. Their inscriptions provide detailed information about the local administrative hierarchy, land grants, and the socio-religious life of Bundelkhand during this era. The dynasty's rule highlights the decentralized yet integrated nature of regional governance within the broader framework of the imperial Gupta administration.

**259.** (C) He established Maratha supremacy and controlled the Mughal Emperor.
Mahadji Scindia's most significant historical contribution was his restoration of Maratha influence in North India after the defeat at Panipat. He built a powerful, modernized army and successfully mediated between various regional powers. By becoming the regent and protector of the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, he effectively controlled the imperial administration. His leadership established Maratha supremacy over a vast territory, making the Scindias the most dominant political force in the Indian subcontinent during the late eighteenth century.

**260.** (D) April 1949
The princely state of Bhopal, under the rule of Nawab Hamidullah Khan, was among the last to formally join the Indian Union. After a period of political uncertainty and internal agitation for merger, the Nawab finally signed the Instrument of Accession in April 1949. The state was officially integrated into the Union of India on June 1, 1949, initially as a Part C state, before being merged with other regions to form the modern state of Madhya Pradesh in 1956.

**261.** (C) Avenging the execution of Bhagat Singh.
The Punjab Mail Massacre, which took place at Khandwa in 1931, was a courageous act of revolutionary defiance carried out by Indian nationalists. The primary motivation behind this attack on British officials was to express outrage and avenge the execution of the iconic revolutionary Bhagat Singh and his associates. This event demonstrated the strong presence of revolutionary sentiment in Madhya Pradesh and the commitment of local nationalists to challenging British colonial rule through direct and forceful action.

**262.** (B) Bharhut
Bharhut, located in the Satna district, is one of the most significant historical Buddhist stupa sites in Madhya Pradesh besides Sanchi. Although the original stupa has largely disappeared, its

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the groundwork for future freedom struggle movements in the region.

**247.** (D) The Gond rulers Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah
The 1857 revolt in the Mahakoshal region, centered around Jabalpur, was primarily spearheaded by the Gond king Shankar Shah and his son Raghunath Shah. They used their traditional influence among the tribal and local populations to plan an organized uprising against British rule. Their eventual capture and brutal execution by the British became a powerful symbol of colonial oppression, further galvanizing the resistance and making them immortal heroes of the freedom struggle in central India.

**248.** (A) Dindori
The memorial and samadhi of the heroic queen Rani Avantibai of Ramgarh are located in the Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh. She is commemorated at the site of her final battle against British forces, where she chose to sacrifice her life for the independence of her kingdom in 1858. The memorial stands as a testament to her extraordinary courage and leadership during the 1857 revolt and serves as an important landmark in the state's historical landscape.

**249.** (C) Navdatoli
Navdatoli is a major Chalcolithic archaeological site situated on the southern bank of the Narmada River, opposite the town of Maheshwar. Excavations at this site have provided comprehensive evidence of early settled life in central India, including details about agricultural practices, animal husbandry, and house construction. Navdatoli is particularly famous for its rich and diverse ceramic tradition and its early use of copper, making it a key location for studying the socio-economic evolution of prehistoric India.

**250.** (A) Amrakardava
The Sanchi Stone Inscription from the reign of Chandragupta II explicitly mentions a generous donation by Amrakardava, a high-ranking military officer in the Gupta administration. He made a grant of a village and a sum of money to the Buddhist community at the Great Stupa to provide for the daily needs of monks and the lighting of ritual lamps. This inscription is a valuable historical record of individual patronage and religious tolerance within the Gupta Empire.

**251.** (D) The main branch of Gwalior
The Kachchapaghata dynasty was divided into three distinct branches, with the main and most powerful branch ruling from Gwalior. This branch was responsible for the construction of significant monuments, including the Sas-Bahu temple, within the Gwalior Fort. The other two branches governed the regions of Dubkund and Narwar. Collectively, these branches were major regional powers in northern Madhya Pradesh during the late tenth to early twelfth centuries, leaving a significant architectural and political legacy.

**252.** (B) Singorgarh Fort
Raja Sangram Shah, the most powerful ruler of the Gond dynasty of Garha-Mandla, is credited with the construction of the Singorgarh Fort, located near Damoh. This strategic hilltop fort was a significant administrative and military center for the Gond kingdom. Sangram Shah's reign marked a period of great expansion and prosperity for Gondwana, and the Singorgarh Fort remains a symbol of his extensive influence and the architectural achievements of the Gond rulers in central India.

**253.** (C) Khan
The Chhatris, or cenotaphs, of the Holkar dynasty rulers are located on the banks of the Khan River in the city of Indore. These elegant stone structures were built as memorials to various members of the royal family, reflecting the architectural style and cultural heritage of the Holkar state. The riverside location and the intricate carvings of these cenotaphs make them a prominent historical and architectural landmark in Indore, representing the city's long association with the Holkar dynasty.

**254.** (D) Narwar
Tatya Tope, the brilliant leader of the 1857 revolt, was eventually captured due to the betrayal of Man Singh, the ruler of Narwar. After being forced to retreat into the dense forests, Tatya Tope had sought refuge with Man Singh. However, Man Singh betrayed his location to the British authorities, leading to Tatya Tope's arrest in April

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spiritual significance as the source of two major Indian rivers. The sacred Narmada River flows westward from here, eventually reaching the Arabian Sea, while the Son River flows toward the northeast to join the Ganges. This makes Amarkantak a unique hydrological point and a major pilgrimage center, revered for its natural beauty and its connection to these lifeline rivers of central and northern India.

**271.** (A) Gurjara
While Kayatha, Eran, and Navdatoli are all primary archaeological sites that have yielded extensive evidence of Chalcolithic settlements, Gurjara is not associated with this period. Gurjara is specifically famous for an Ashokan minor rock edict from the third century BC. The other three sites are essential for understanding the transition to a settled agricultural and copper-using lifestyle in central India, whereas Gurjara is a key landmark for study of the historical Mauryan Empire and its religious propagation.

**272.** (B) Antialcidas
The monolithic stone pillar at Besnagar, also known as the Heliodorus pillar, was erected by Heliodorus, who was the ambassador of the Indo-Greek King Antialcidas. Heliodorus had been sent to the court of the Shunga King Bhagabhadra. The inscription on the pillar records his arrival and his devotion to the deity Vasudeva. This monument is a vital historical source for understanding the diplomatic relations and cultural exchanges between the Greek kingdoms of the northwest and the Indian powers of central India.

**273.** (B) Kannauj
The Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty reached the zenith of its power after making the historic city of Kannauj its imperial capital in the ninth century. From Kannauj, they controlled a vast empire that stretched across much of northern and central India, including various parts of modern Madhya Pradesh. Their rule from this strategic city in the Ganges valley made them a dominant force in Indian politics and a primary participant in the famous tripartite struggle for supremacy over north India.

**274.** (A) Narhar Shah
Narhar Shah was the last independent ruler of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Mandla. Following the gradual decline of the kingdom after the reign of Rani Durgavati and the increasing pressure from both the Mughal and later Maratha powers, the Gond authority was finally extinguished. Narhar Shah was defeated and imprisoned by the Marathas in the late eighteenth century, marking the formal end of the sovereign rule of one of the most powerful and long-standing tribal dynasties of central India.

**275.** (C) 1858
Following the major uprising of 1857, the British Parliament passed the Government of India Act in 1858. This act formally transferred the administration of India from the East India Company to the British Crown. Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858 announced this change, promising religious tolerance and respect for the rights of Indian princes. This transition marked the beginning of direct British colonial rule in India, with the Governor-General also serving as the Viceroy of the Crown.

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**276.** (D) Jabalpur
The samadhi and memorial of Rani Durgavati, the heroic queen of the Gondwana kingdom, are located in the Jabalpur district. She died fighting the Mughal forces at Narrai Nala near Jabalpur in 1564. Choosing to sacrifice her life rather than face capture, she became a powerful symbol of tribal bravery and resistance. Her memorial at this site is an important place of pilgrimage and historical remembrance, honoring her long and successful reign and her final heroic stand.

**277.** (C) Gwalior
The Jai Vilas Palace is a magnificent nineteenth-century palace located in the city of Gwalior. It was built by Maharaja Jayajirao Scindia and serves as the residence of the descendants of the Scindia dynasty. The palace is a stunning example of European-style architecture and is famous for its grand Durbar Hall, which houses some of the world's largest chandeliers. A part of the palace has been converted into a museum that showcases the rich history and heritage of the Scindia family.

**278.** (B) Sati (self-immolation of a widow)
The site of Eran is historically famous for a stone pillar inscription dated to 510 AD, belonging to the reign of the Gupta King Bhanugupta. This inscription records that a chieftain named Goparaja died in battle and that his wife immolated herself on his funeral pyre. This is recognized by historians as the earliest known epigraphic evidence in India for the practice of Sati, providing crucial historical data about social customs prevalent during the transition to the early medieval period.

**279.** (D) Bhopal
Raja Bhoja of the Parmar dynasty is traditionally credited with the construction of an enormous lake, known as the 'Bhojtal' or Upper Lake, in the city of Bhopal. He realized the strategic importance of the site and commissioned the building of a massive dam to create the lake, which remains a primary source of water and a major landmark of the city. This engineering feat highlights the vision of Raja Bhoja as a city-builder and his contribution to the urban landscape.

**280.** (A) Sikandar Jahan Begum
During the 1857 revolt, Nawab Sikandar Jahan Begum, the ruler of the princely state of Bhopal, chose to remain loyal to the British government. Despite pressure from some local rebels and soldiers within her own state, she provided military and administrative support to the British, ensuring that Bhopal remained a relatively stable island amidst the widespread uprisings in the surrounding regions of central India. Her decision played a crucial role in the survival of British authority in that part of the state.

**281.** (C) Moran Khan
Moran Khan was a significant leader who spearheaded the revolt at Mahidpur during the 1857 uprising. Mahidpur was a major military cantonment in the Malwa region, and the rebellion there posed a serious threat to British interests in the area. Under Moran Khan's leadership, the Indian soldiers revolted against their colonial officers, joining the broader movement of resistance that was sweeping across central India. His role highlights the localized yet impactful nature of various uprisings during the 1857 freedom struggle.

**282.** (A) Bayajibai Shinde, wife of Daulat Rao Scindia
The Gopal Mandir in Ujjain, a beautiful example of Maratha architecture, was commissioned in the nineteenth century by Bayajibai Shinde. As the wife of Maharaja Daulat Rao Scindia, she was a prominent and influential figure in the Scindia court. The temple, dedicated to Lord Krishna, is famous for its silver-plated doors and its elegant marble and stone construction, representing the significant cultural and religious patronage provided by the Scindia family to the holy city of Ujjain.

**283.** (D) Scenes from the Jataka tales and secular life.
The paintings in the Bagh Caves are celebrated for their vibrant depictions of both religious and secular themes. While they include scenes from the Jataka tales, illustrating the previous lives of the Buddha, they are equally famous for portraying the contemporary life of the Gupta period. These secular scenes show musicians, dancers, and people in various social settings, providing a rare and valuable visual record of the clothing, entertainment, and everyday activities of ancient Indian society during its 'Golden Age'.

**284.** (B) Uchchakalpa dynasty
The Uchchakalpa dynasty was one of the local ruling houses that governed parts of the Baghelkhand region during the fifth and sixth centuries AD. They were feudatories of the Gupta Empire, and their administration was centered at the town of Uchchakalpa (modern Unchehara). The copper-plate grants issued by their rulers are vital historical documents that help reconstruct the political and social history of eastern Madhya Pradesh during a period of transition and integration under the overall Gupta imperial framework.

**285.** (C) Betwa
The city of Vidisha is situated on the banks of the Betwa River. Historically known as Besnagar, Vidisha was a prosperous urban center and a major strategic junction in ancient India. The perennial Betwa River provided a reliable source of water and facilitated trade, contributing significantly to the city's growth as a major political, commercial, and religious hub. The river's banks are also home to various ancient monuments, including the Heliodorus pillar,

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which reflect Vidisha's long and rich historical heritage.

**286.** (D) Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand
Vindhya Pradesh was formed in 1948 by merging thirty-five princely states from the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand regions. Created as a Part C state, its capital was established at Rewa. This merger aimed to unify these historically and culturally linked regions of northeastern Madhya Pradesh for better administrative and political management. Vindhya Pradesh existed as a separate unit until the major reorganization in 1956, when it was integrated into the larger state of Madhya Pradesh.

**287.** (A) He looted British treasuries and the rich to aid the needy.
Tantya Bheel was known as the 'Indian Robin Hood' because his revolutionary activities mirrored the legendary English folk hero. Operating in the late nineteenth century, he led a guerrilla struggle against British exploitation and local moneylenders. He became famous for plundering government treasuries and the wealth of oppressive officials, which he then distributed among the poor and starving tribal populations of the Nimar region, earning him immense respect and status as a benevolent folk hero among his people.

**288.** (B) Ashoknagar
The historic fort of Chanderi is located in the Ashoknagar district of Madhya Pradesh. Chanderi has been a major center for trade and textiles for centuries, particularly famous for its fine hand-woven saris. The fort itself is situated on a high hill and contains several significant architectural remains, including the Kati Ghati gate, which was uniquely carved through a massive rock wall. Chanderi's rich history and its unique location make it a vital site for studying central Indian heritage.

**289.** (B) Chalcolithic
The Chalcolithic period, also known as the Copper-Stone Age, is the first historical era in Madhya Pradesh marked by the systematic use of copper tools. This period represents a significant technological leap from the earlier Stone Ages, as early farming communities began to smelt and craft copper for various implements while still using stone for many tasks. Sites like Kayatha and Navdatoli provide extensive evidence of this culture, marking the beginning of metallurgy and more complex socio-economic development in the region.

**290.** (A) The Huna King Mihirakula
The Mandsour inscription of the Oulikar ruler Yashodharman is a celebrated 'Pillar of Victory' erected to commemorate his decisive defeat of the Huna King Mihirakula. In the sixth century, the Hunas had invaded north and central India, establishing a reign of terror. Yashodharman's victory was a turning point that effectively halted Huna expansion and restored peace in the region. The inscription, carved on a massive stone pillar, remains a significant historical monument to his military prowess and regional leadership.

**291.** (C) Bhoja
Raja Bhoja of the Parmar dynasty was a contemporary of the Turkic conqueror Mahmud of Ghazni. Historical traditions record that Bhoja provided shelter and military support to the Shahi King of Punjab, who was struggling against Mahmud's invasions. This demonstrates Raja Bhoja's significant role in the northern Indian political landscape and his commitment to resisting foreign incursions. His reign represented the height of Parmar power, during which he was recognized as one of the most powerful and scholarly monarchs in India.

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**292.** (D) Kharjuravahaka
In ancient and medieval times, the city of Khajuraho was known as Kharjuravahaka. This name is mentioned in several historical inscriptions of the Chandela dynasty. The term is traditionally believed to be derived from the abundance of date palm trees (Kharjura) that were found in the region. Kharjuravahaka served as the religious and initial political capital of the Chandelas, where they built their spectacular and world-renowned temple complex, reflecting the city's status as a major cultural and spiritual center.

**293.** (C) Gwalior Rajya Praja Mandal organization
During the freedom struggle, the Gwalior Rajya Praja Mandal was established to carry on the movement for democratic rights and independence within the Gwalior princely state. Since the Scindia rulers were allied with

the British, direct nationalist activities were often suppressed. The Praja Mandal became the primary vehicle for political mobilization, demanding administrative reforms and an end to British influence, and it played a crucial role in sensitizing the people of Gwalior state toward the national cause for independence.

**294.** (B) Baghels of Rewa
The historic fort of Bandhavgarh, situated on the Vindhyan hills, served as a primary capital and a formidable stronghold for the Baghel dynasty of Rewa for several centuries. Its strategic and natural location made it nearly impregnable. It was only later, in the seventeenth century, that the Baghel rulers shifted their main capital to Rewa. Today, the area surrounding the fort is better known as a famous national park, but the ruins of the fort continue to testify to its past royal glory.

**295.** (D) Red, made from haematite or iron oxide
The prehistoric artists who created the rock paintings at Bhimbetka and other sites in Madhya Pradesh used a palette of natural minerals for their work. Red was the most common and enduring colour used, which they produced by grinding haematite, a form of iron oxide, and mixing it with water or animal fat. This choice of pigment was not only easily available in the local environment but also remarkably durable, allowing these ancient artworks to survive for thousands of years.

**296.** (A) Kalchuri-Chedi Era
The Abheer dynasty, founded by Ishwarsena in the third century AD, is historically credited with the initiation of the Kalchuri-Chedi era. Although originally established by the Abheers, this chronological era was later adopted and extensively used by the Kalchuri rulers of Tripuri and other dynasties in central India for their official records and inscriptions. The era became a standardized method of dating in medieval central Indian history, reflecting the enduring influence of the early Abheer administration on the region's historical record-keeping.

**297.** (C) Holkars
The Lal Bagh Palace in Indore is a spectacular architectural monument built by the Holkar dynasty during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Constructed mainly during the reigns of Tukoji Rao Holkar II and Shivaji Rao Holkar, the palace reflects a blend of European and Indian architectural styles. It served as a grand residence for the royal family and is famous for its opulent interiors, extensive gardens, and refined craftsmanship, representing the cultural and administrative peak of the Holkar state.

**298.** (A) Chitrakoot
The Gupt Godavari caves are a significant religious and mythological site located near the holy town of Chitrakoot. These caves feature a natural perennial stream that flows through them and is traditionally believed to be a hidden branch of the sacred Godavari River. Chitrakoot is deeply associated with the Ramayana, and sites like Gupt Godavari are major centers of pilgrimage, attracting devotees who come to revere the place where Lord Rama is believed to have spent part of his exile.

**299.** (D) Rashtrakutas
Before it became the celebrated capital of the Parmar dynasty, the city of Dhar served as an important administrative center for the Rashtrakuta Empire. The early Parmar rulers, who initially rose as feudatories of the Rashtrakutas, eventually established their independent authority over the region. Dhar's strategic and cultural importance grew as it transitioned from a Rashtrakuta provincial center to the primary seat of power for the Parmars, where it became a renowned hub for art, architecture, and scholarly learning.

**300.** (B) Bheemaji Nayak
Bheemaji Nayak was a formidable Bhil leader who spearheaded the 1857 revolt in the Nimar and Sendhwa Ghati regions. He effectively utilized the rugged terrain to launch guerrilla attacks against British forces and their local allies. His persistent resistance made him a significant threat to colonial authority, eventually leading to his capture and subsequent imprisonment in the Andaman Islands. His struggle remains a powerful symbol of tribal bravery and the localized intensity of the 1857 freedom struggle in central India.



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